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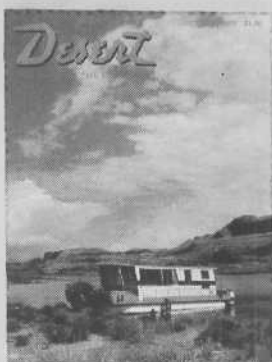
Volume 40, Number 10

OCTOBER 1977

## CONTENTS

### FEATURES

TRILOBITES: GHOSTS OF THE DESERT	6	Paul Remeika
A LOOK AT LIZARDS THROUGH A LENS	8	Walter Ford
MINERAL KING	12	Roy Russell
THE GREAT HYDRAULIC RACE	16	John W. Robinson
ALL'S NOT SMOOTH AT VELVET	20	Mary Frances Strong
BADGER HOLE GOLD	32	Harold O. Weight
CORN SPRING	34	Dick Bloomquist
ALMOST FORGOTTEN TRUCKHAVEN TRAIL	36	Bill Jennings
DESERT UNICORN	40	W. P. Armstrong



THE COVER:  
It takes a houseboat trip to really appreciate the wonders of Utah's beautiful Lake Powell. Photo by Ernie Cowan, Escondido, California.

### DEPARTMENTS

A PEEK IN THE PUBLISHER'S POKE	4	William Knyvett
1978 BOOK CATALOG	21	Books for Desert Readers
TRADING POST	44	Classified Listings
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR	46	Readers' Comments
CALENDAR OF WESTERN EVENTS	46	Club Activities

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# A Peek in the Publisher's Poke

ALL IS with us once again and it is a time when fancies turn to football and the World Series. But the knowledgeable outdoorsman turns his mind to Lake Powell and its wonderful autumn weather and excellent fishing conditions.

It also provides a big bonus in seasonal discounts on houseboats, according to Dick Kemp, public relations director for Del E. Webb Corporation, which operates three marinas on Lake Powell: Hite Marina—Oct. 1-Dec. 31, 30% discount; Wahweap Lodge & Marina—Nov. 1-Dec. 31, 30% discount; Bullfrog Resort & Marina—Oct. 15-Oct. 31, 20% discount and Nov. 1-Dec. 31, 30% discount.

This means that under the discount plan six fishermen could rent a six-sleeper modern houseboat at Hite for three nights for \$45.50 each. For those who haven't discovered the thrill of boating on Lake Powell, this is a great opportunity.

I hope the cooler fall weather will encourage more people to visit the wonderful desert southwest and enjoy the wide open spaces, quiet canyons and majestic sunsets that are all a part of my favorite place on earth.

October also brings our annual Book Catalog which has been categorized this year for your convenience, and for those who prefer to shop in person, our Book Shop will again be open Saturdays from 10 to 3, effective October 1st.

*William Kuyper*

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1420 In the Shade of Santa Rita Best Wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



1425 "Blessed are they..." May you have the Spirit of Christmas which is Peace...the Heart, etc.



1426 "And the desert shall rejoice..." May the Peace and Joy of Christmas be with you through the Year



1429 "...small wonders of the season, etc." Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



1211 "...what can I give Him, Give my heart." May the warmth and love...at Christmas fill your heart...



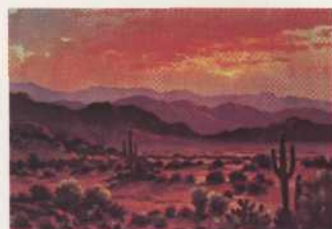
1411 If this old bird burns up the road...He's rushin' you our wishes for a Merry Christmas season!



1238 God's Candlesticks "...May happy memories linger on" May you have the Spirit of Christmas, etc.



1423 It's Christmas again! May yours be a joyful one and your New Year happy!



1410 "My heart can hear the desert call, etc." With Best Wishes for Christmas and all the New Year



1254 "May the trail rise up to meet you...may God hold you in...His hand." Merry Christmas



1123 "May your moccasins make happy tracks, etc." Merry Christmas and Happy New Year



1115 "And a Merry Christmas to you, too." Wishing you the special joy that only Christmas brings

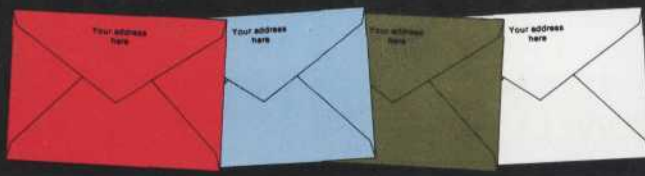


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# Trilobites: Ghosts of the Desert

by PAUL REMEIKA

IMAGINE a watery world of huge, beautiful, honey-combed colonies of corals, blooming tufts, sponges, algae, and vagrant jellyfish, all reigned over by invincibly-grotesque, crab-like creatures! Science fiction? Not really, although it very well could be. Instead, it defines a primeval paleo-environment of long ago, which actually flourished during the Cambrian Period of the vast Paleozoic Era of Earth's history, about 600 million years ago. And a considerable part of this ancient marine landscape took place in ocean basins which formerly covered large areas of what is now eastern California, Nevada, and parts of Utah!

Substantiation is based on the fossil record — a record that does not lie, revealing an astonishing array of past-life organisms, both plant and animal, that once flourished in the shallow substratas of prehistory. And these sea-floor scavengers resembling crabs — the trilo-

bites — they dominated all marine habitats during an impressive portion of that time.

The name trilobite is derived from a "three-lobed" body appearance, emphasized by a head (cephalon), thorax, and tail (pygidium) segment. Together, they formulated a most durable exoskeleton (the shell being outside the body), analogous to crayfish, lobsters and shrimp.

This jointed armor protected delicate internal organs, allowed the body to move to-and-fro, and yet, supported it much like a skeleton — very important essentials if you happened to be a trilobite. And, as the animal grew, it had to periodically molt this chitinous shell.

Trilobites, such as the archaic *Olenellus thompsoni*, reconstructed here, were well endowed with fragile ventral appendages. Such unique structures are now rare finds in the field of paleontology. These specialized body attach-

ments (jaws, antennae, eyes, and jointed legs) made it possible for the animal to swim or plow through bottom sediments for food, or to detect movements up ahead in murky waters. As a life-support system, vibratory gills and branching membranes functioned food to the mouth and bathed each mechanism with a constant flow of fresh water — all specialized adaptations for such a prehistoric creature.

Manifested by these fascinating creatures, I have tracked their remains throughout the desert southwest, researching their antiquity through the pages of time. As a paleontologist, the thrill of forcibly cleaving open a slab of shale and finding an enclosed trilobite fossil is extremely exciting and rewarding, since the animal has been pre-empted within the framework of the Earth's crust for a considerable duration of time (600 million years). The age alone boggles the mind.

Ironically, many people do not know what a trilobite is. To the geological scientist, a trilobite is a prehistoric jewel of an age long past. Crab-like in appearance, it exhibits characteristics similar to Arthropods, an invertebrate phylum that includes living species of insects, spiders, crabs, lobsters, centipedes, shrimp and even barnacles! The trilobites were morphologically the most primitive of members, although they were the most highly developed creatures to roam the seas of their time! Hence, the Age of Trilobites was born.

What a bizarre world it was. If we could close our eyes and revert back in time, we would see a world ruled by these meager creatures, the "Kings of the Cambrian Seas." Always sporting a perennial facial grimace, they proliferated, harboring over lush tropical domains of sea grass, clustered algae, and waving kelp strands, along with more subtle sea lilies, rock weeds, worms and primitive shellfish. Within these shallow offshore waters, they swam about endlessly, either randomly along the sea floor or groveling through the bottom sediments.

Astonishingly, these monarchs were small creatures, measuring less than four inches long — still an enormous proportion for any animal of the Cambrian Period. It is difficult for paleontologists to actually interpret the mode of life



The consensus holds that whole specimens, such as *Paedeumias clarki* [shown] are the exception rather than the rule.

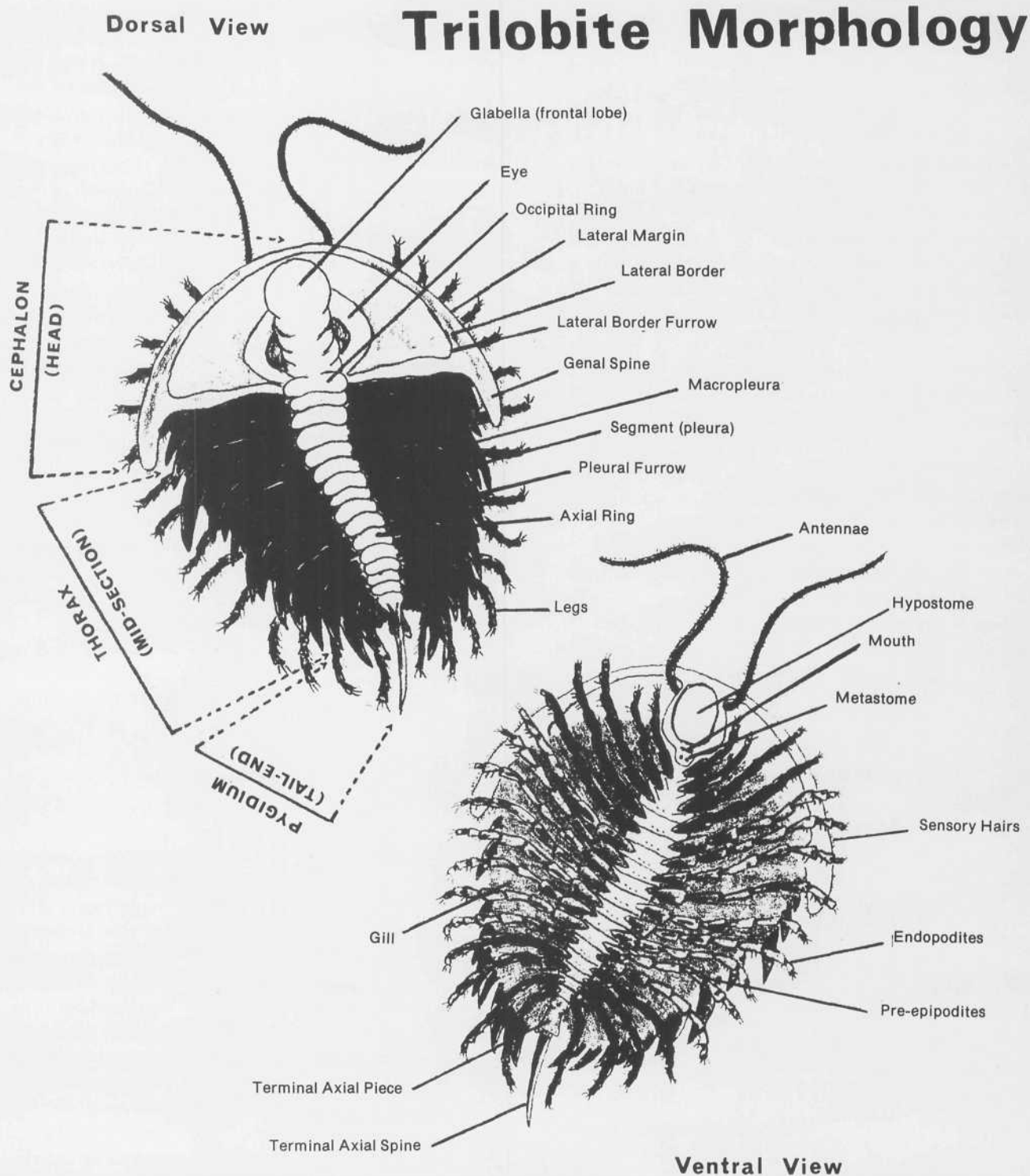


of a trilobite. Surely, it centered around searching for food. Typically benthonic in behavior, they fed mostly on suspended detritus (minute organic particles) in the water or small tidbits within the sands, silts, and muds of the sea bottom.

Most assuredly, they were voracious eaters, but no one can safely infer whether or not their normal foraging was more enticed by a primitive snail and jellyfish, or a more vegetal fare!

The trilobites are gone, buried in the evolutionary graveyard of time — a fate most scientists believe is worse than death itself. Gone for all time. No human being will ever have the privilege of actually seeing one alive, since they became extinct many millions of years ago, even before the appearance of the Age of Dinosaurs. However, I would cherish the opportunity of reaching back into the past for just one day to witness the fascinating period of the trilobite.

Will the passage of time ever bring back the trilobite? Will similar creatures ever reign as masters of the world again? Probably not within man's lifetime, for, as T.A. Conrad once summarized —  
The race of man shall perish,  
but the eyes  
Of trilobites eternal be in stone,  
And seem to stare about in mild surprise  
At changes greater than they have yet known. □



# A LOOK AT LIZARDS THROUGH A LENS

by WALTER FORD

IF YOU WOULD LIKE some exciting adventures with your camera, where the ancestry of your subjects extends millions of years back in time, the southwestern deserts will make it easy for you. Their sand dunes and foothills will provide expansive open-air studios and the antics of the lizards that inhabit them will supply plenty of action for your camera shots.

When tracing the time path of prehistoric animals from their fossils, today's scientists are aided by radioactive materials with which they claim reasonably accurate results. By measuring the amount of disintegration of such materials associated with the sediments in which the fossils were embedded, they are able to estimate the number of years since the fossil was formed.

In his book *Dinosaurs*, Nicholas Totten, Division of Vertebrate Paleontology, Smithsonian Institution, states that lizards were part of the Jurassic Period fossil record which, according to the Geologic timetable, occurred between 135 and 180 million years ago. Geologic timetables may be found in most geology textbooks and other publications dealing with prehistoric animal life. But it should be noted that such tables may vary slightly with different authors. However, when the variations are compared with the millions of years in-



Remote camera shutter control makes it unnecessary to remain by your camera while waiting for your subject to appear. Photographer is shown here near camera just to display the parts of the control together. Lizard has just emerged from burrow a few feet to the right of the camera tripod.

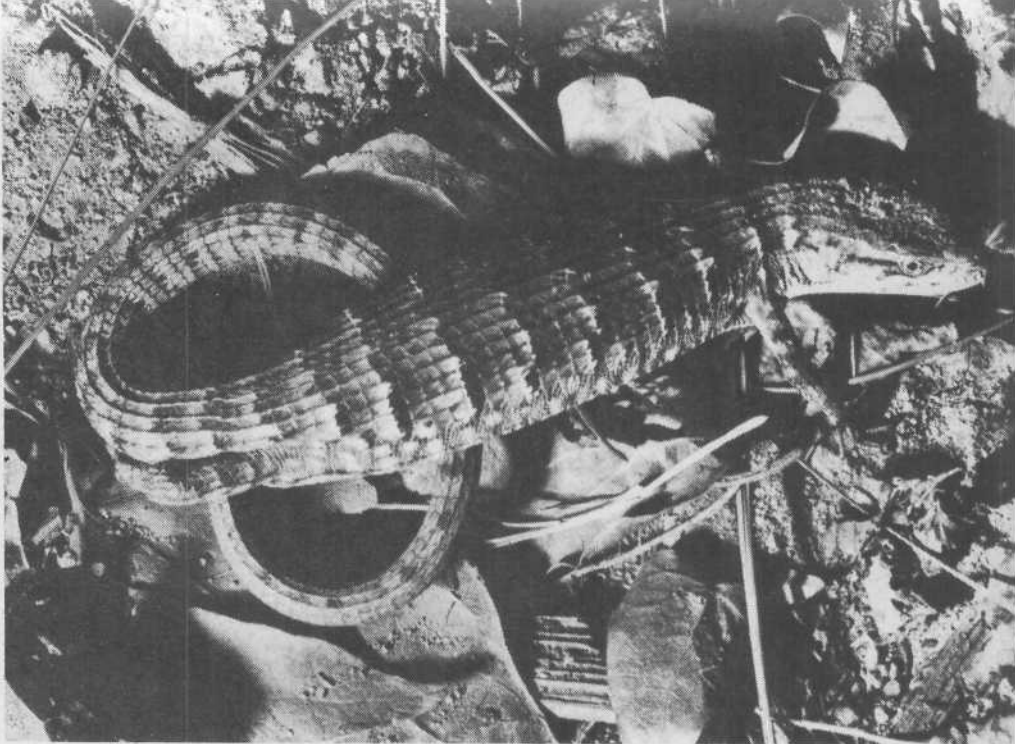


volved, they become relatively unimportant.

Since time to the layman is usually a matter of minutes, days and years, it is often difficult for him to conceive of intervals covering millions of years. In his book, also titled *Dinosaurs*, E.H. Colbert, Curator of Fossil Reptiles, The American Museum of Natural History, has an interesting comment on the subject: "The student of the earth thinks not in terms of centuries, or even millenia, but rather in terms of millions of years, and to think in such large terms as these, to take such an extremely long view of life and the earth, requires a certain amount of mental readjustment."

A chuckwalla lizard looks like he made the 180 million year time span from the Dinosaur Age in one gigantic leap. But in spite of his ungainly appearance he makes a good camera subject. His diet consists mainly of flowers, so he does not appear in spring until about a month after the other lizards. When he finally emerges from his long sleep his breakfast of wildflowers is blooming and ready. Chuckwallas like to bask in the sun on boulders and on such occasions are generally easy to photograph.

A chuckwalla's normal wobbling gait might indicate that they are slow movers, but they can travel with surprising speed when necessary. When danger

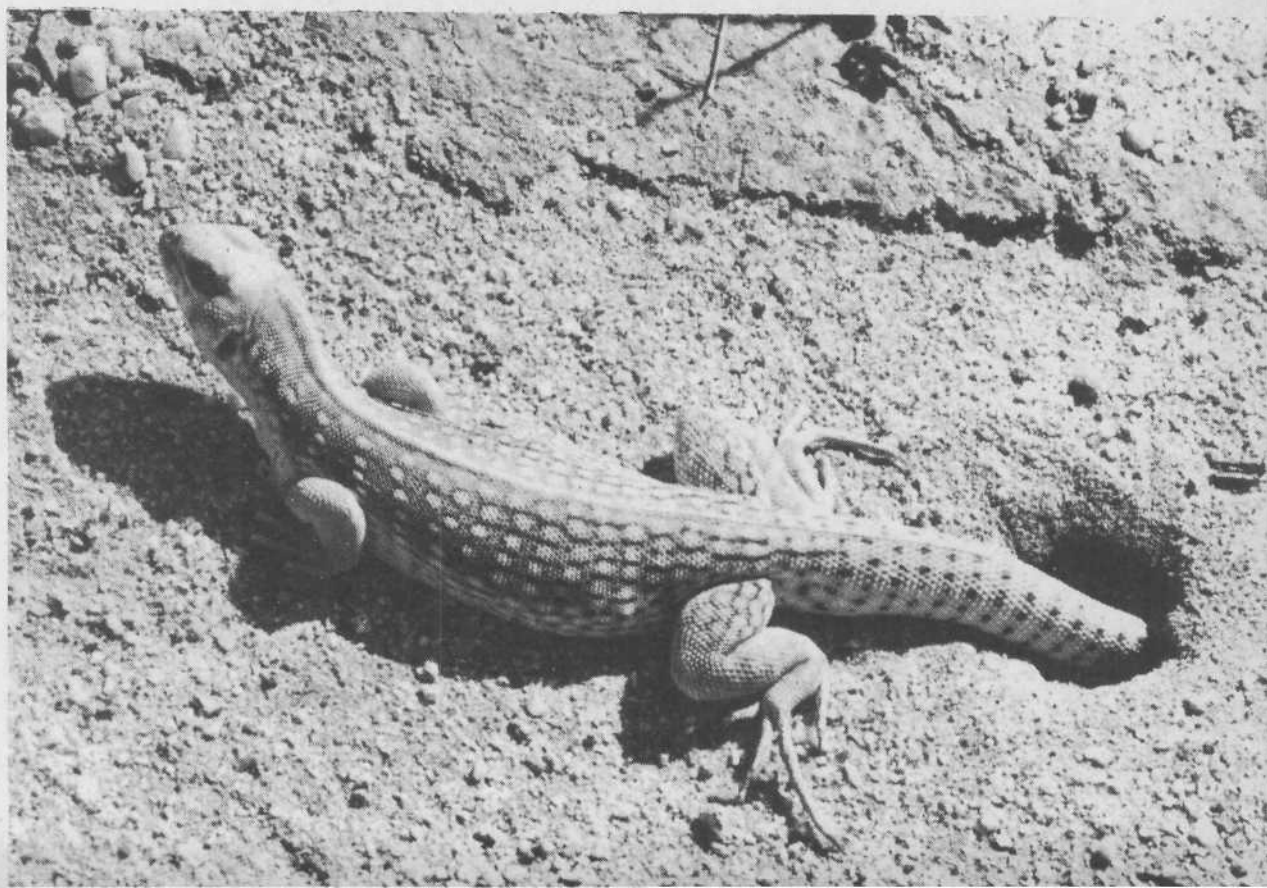


*Western Alligator Lizard resting in debris around old cabin site in foothills below Banner, California. One of lizard's inactive hind legs shows above the end of his tail.*

threatens they run into a crevice between two boulders and inflate themselves so it is almost impossible to remove them alive.

Chuckwallas were always a favorite item in desert Indians' diet, but their method of preparing them would hardly appeal to a fastidious diner. In his book, *Desert Wildlife*, Edmund C. Jaeger tells of a day some years back when he found

three Indians sitting around a fire in a Nevada desert canyon. On the fire was a large iron pot in which six fat chuckwallas were cooking. Presumably, the Indians invited Jaeger to share their meal. When he looked into the pot and learned that they had neglected to remove the heads and skins from the creatures, he wrote that he had only a feeling of "repugnance" for food.



*A Desert Iguana, poised to retreat into its burrow, keeps a wary eye on the photographer.*

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I had my first close-up look at a chuckwalla in the late 40s at artist John Hilton's place near Thermal, along old Highway 99. John usually had a new desert oddity to show me, or an off-beat activity going on whenever I visited him. This time he was "hypnotizing" a chuckwalla by scratching its underside with a fingernail. The lizard remained in any position it was placed — lying on its side, curved in a semicircle, or swinging trapeze-like from a stick held by John. It was an incredible demonstration.

While following a desert trail sometime, you may have seen an unrecognizable object streak across a nearby sand dune and disappear in a puff of sand. You could have attributed the strange sight to the heat of the day, or just let it serve as a reminder that your periodical eye check-up was long overdue. But you could have actually seen a Fringe-footed Sand Lizard, which as his name suggests, has special "equipment" to speed his progress over sand. And further confusing the scene could have been his bipedal movements; traveling on his hind legs with his tail curved over his back. There are several species of lizards capable of traveling on their hind legs, but none so adept as Mr. Fringe-foot. His ability to dive under sand while traveling at top speed puts him in a class by himself.

Strangely, a photograph of a bipedalizing lizard in action does not seem to exist. None of the reptile books available contains one, although some of them mention a bipedaler's unusual characteristics. The popular San Diego Zoo lacks such a photograph, but said they hope to obtain one. A similar report came from the San Diego Museum of Natural History. In spite of the negative results from my survey, I believe it is possible to photograph successfully a bipedalizing lizard in action. You will need a camera with a fast shutter, some fast film, and a companion to flush your subject into the open and across your camera field. And a lot of patience!

The Desert Iguana, or Crested Lizard, as he is also known, is a handsome creature that often attains a length of 15 or more inches. The "crested" designation is due to a row of small scales running down the middle of his back. He is wary and like most lizards, exceedingly curious; a trait which frequently overrides his caution. He likes high temperatures

and on hot, sunny days when most of the other lizards have sought shelter he can generally be found basking in the heat.

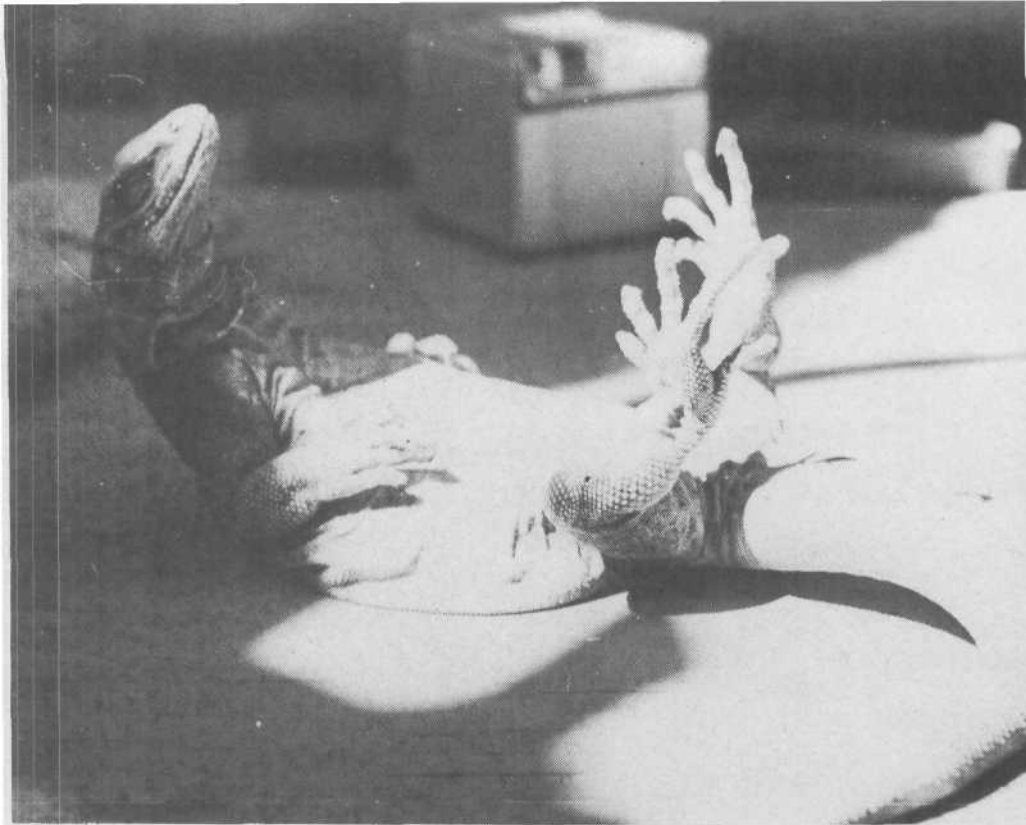
On one such day I found a Desert Iguana stretched out in the Borrego Badlands with his tail extending into his burrow. It was a rare shot and since I had only a view camera with me I knew I would have to work carefully to get it. I mounted my camera on a tripod a few feet away, focused it and snapped the shutter. During that time the lizard watched me intently without the slightest movement. Then, as I was dismantling the equipment I made a faint noise and in a flash he turned and disappeared down his burrow.

The Desert Iguana is also a bipedaller and like the chuckwalla he is able to inflate himself to foil his enemies. However, since he spends most of his days on the flatlands, there is seldom an occasion to use those talents. He likes to dine on the leaves and flowers of the creosote bush, which can provide opportunities for interesting action pictures.

Although the Desert Iguana is considered a vegetarian, he may abandon that role when a delectable insect crosses his path. While on a recent desert trip I saw one calmly nibbling his lunch in a creosote bush. Then a small beetle landed on a nearby branch and the lizard seemed to go berserk. His sides began to quiver and his head swung from side to side as he moved toward his prey. Suddenly, he lunged forward, misjudged the distance and fell to the ground. The beetle flew away and the frustrated hunter disappeared down a rodent hole.

When a Western Alligator lizard is seen disappearing under brush, he may look like an oversize lizard or a venomous snake, depending upon his method of traveling. Nature seems to have short-changed him in the rear leg department and left him with two almost useless appendages. When searching for food he glides slowly through vegetation, propelled by his front legs and slight aid from the defective ones. When an enemy appears he swings instantly into action with snake-like movements and tries to wiggle his way to safety. If the enemy gets too close he may "unjoint" a section of his tail; a move that is intended to attract the attention of his pursuer while he makes an escape. His tail may grow out again, but rarely to its original length.





"Hypnotized" Chuckwalla enjoys a nap in his own body-formed cradle.

When searching for an area with a large lizard population, look for one with lots of fine sand, vegetation and many rodent burrows. Vegetation attracts insects for the lizards' food and the burrows provide escape routes from dangers for which they are ever on the alert. When disturbed an overly curious lizard may stop just short of a burrow to await further developments, or he may dash underground only to reappear a few minutes later to complete his survey. A more cautious lizard may go underground immediately and remain there 15 or 20 minutes longer.

Standing over your camera waiting for your quarry to surface can be a tiring job at times. Fortunately, there is an inexpensive remote camera shutter control, available from photo supply dealers, that makes the task easier. The control consists of a small air cylinder that attaches to your camera shutter release button, a rubber bulb, and a length of small rubber tubing to connect the bulb and cylinder together. Set your camera and tripod up in a selected area and extend the rubber tubing to a convenient location. There, from a camp chair or other support, you can monitor the scene in comfort.

The 20-foot tubing usually supplied with the control is normally long enough for most situations, but if greater length

is required another length of tubing may be coupled to the original piece.

Western Alligator lizards feed on insects, scorpions and other lizards, which frequently includes members of his own family. Their range takes in the western portion of the Colorado Desert and the northern section of Baja California. They are also known as "San Diego Alligator" lizards, a distinction they seem to have accepted by setting up housekeeping in the gardens of suburban San Diego.

Western Alligator lizards try to avoid open spaces, so it is usually difficult to maneuver them into suitable positions for picture taking. But they also avoid high temperatures and that can work to a photographer's advantage. In hot weather they may be found under vegetation bordering streambeds or piles of desert debris, where they seem listless and unconcerned with any activity around them.

Once you start on the lizard-photo trail, you will have a seemingly endless list of lizards from which to select your subjects. In his *Field Guide to Western Reptiles and Amphibians*, Robert Stebbins lists over 100 species and subspecies of lizards living in the western states. A large number of them may be found on the deserts of the Southwest. The lizards described in this article are just a fractional part of that listing. □

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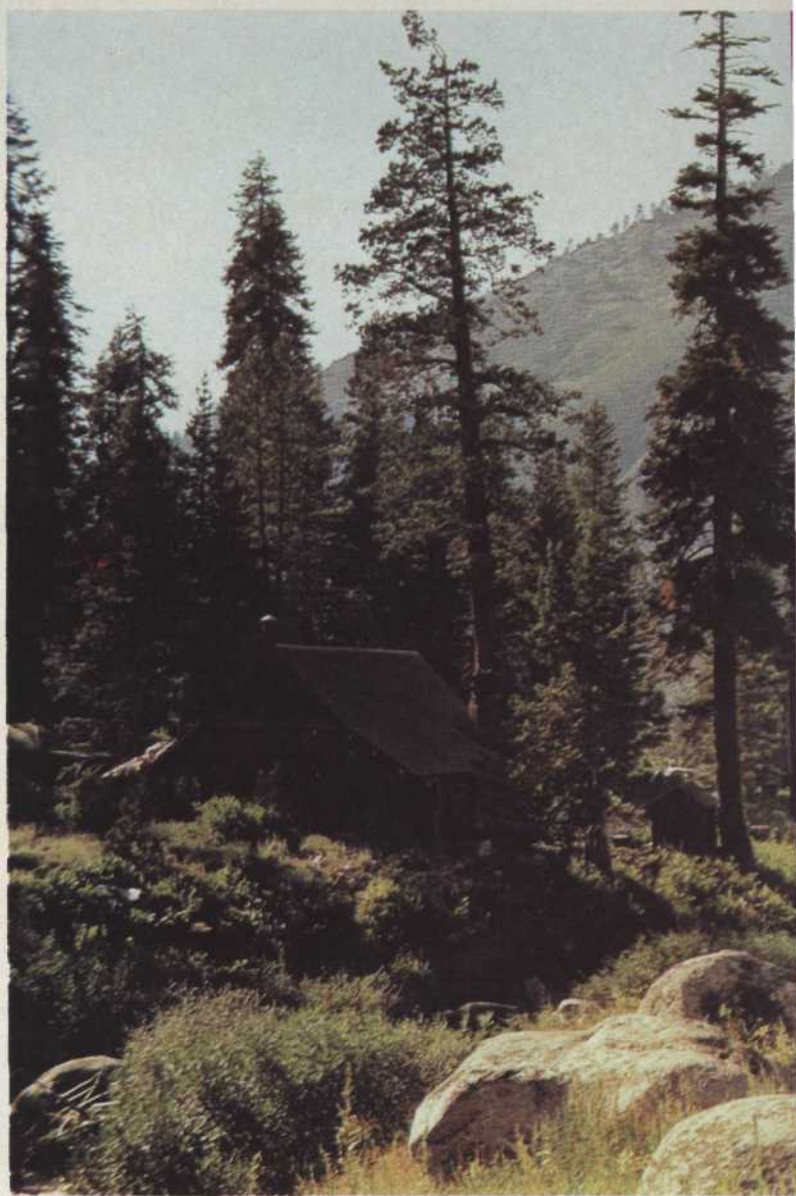


# MINERAL KING

## An Alpine Paradise

by ROY RUSSELL

*Cabins nestle  
in the bottom  
of the valley.*



ONE AND A HALF MILES in the sky Mineral King is a valley of contrasts. Nestled amidst the tops of the Western Sierras, it forms a balcony 8,400 feet high along the Great Western Divide and draws hikers, backpackers, campers, fishermen, rock hound enthusiasts, history buffs and harried refugees who just want to escape the hustle of everyday living. Not because Mineral King is a valley is it worth a visit. Indeed, valleys are common in mountains; however, this glacial "U" at the end of a winding mountain road that branches out of the little town of Three Rivers east of Visalia, California, has several factors which combine to make it special.

Surrounded by peaks that rise over 12,000 feet, Mineral King is rimmed by some of the most ancient rocks of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Entry is

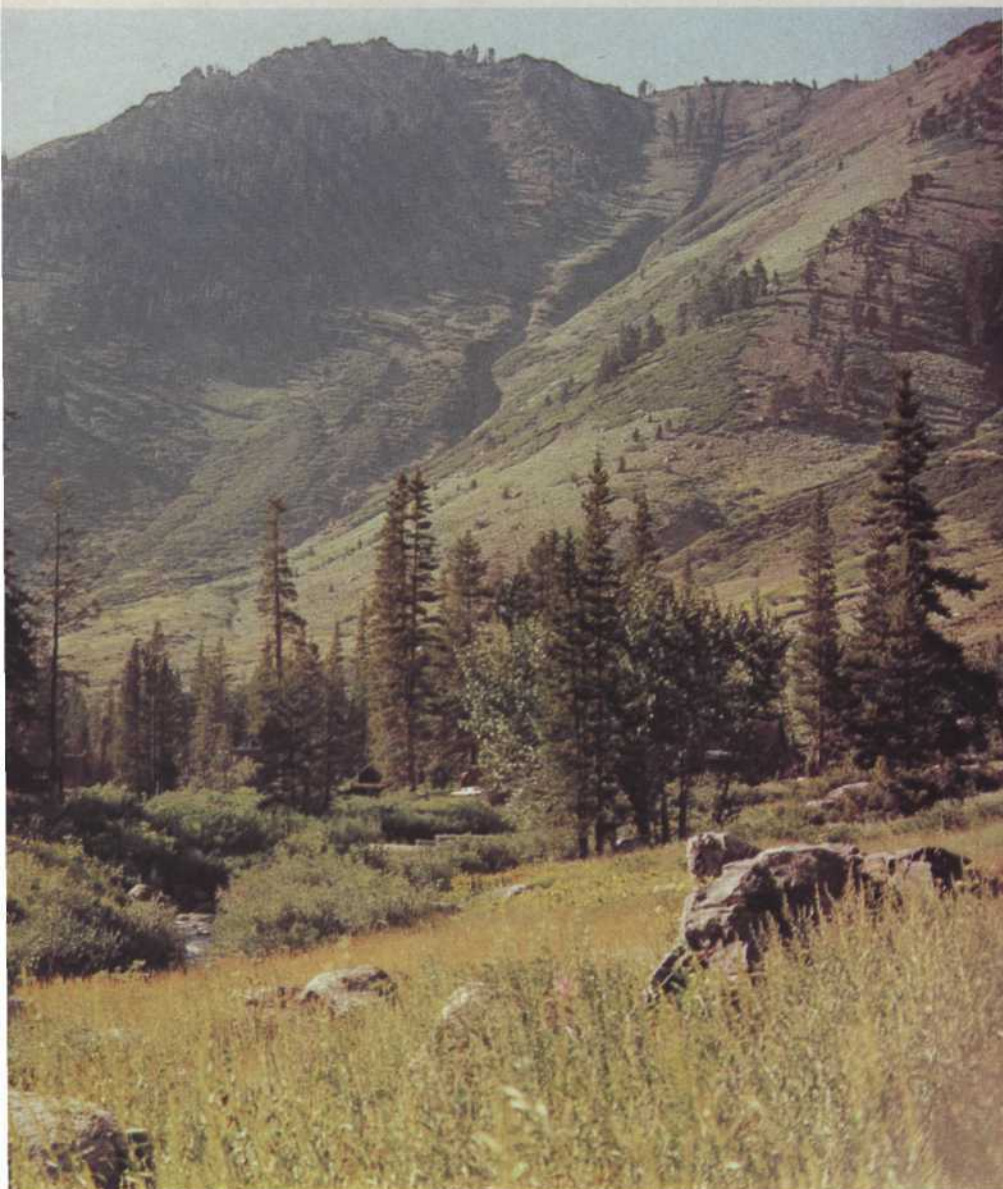
blocked some of the year by 20- to 30-foot winter snows which turn it into a lush, verdant green paradise splashed with fields of colorful wildflowers in summer. Natural and wildlife communities are patterned with little thought given to rules of botany. And many species of wild animals inhabit its Alpine setting.

The peaks that surround Mineral King are recent, yet their composition is ancient sedimentary rock — layers of silt, clay and sand laid down and compacted beneath ancient seas 200 million years ago. Atop these layers came limestone deposits followed by shales; then during the time of the volcanoes, volcanic ash settled over the sandstones that had formed. Lava flows added depth to the sedimentary beds. Great pressures and temperatures converted the sediments

into marble causing "folding," an intense crumpling of the layered beds. The layers were thrust high into the atmosphere to become the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Marine fossils can be found in the gray band of sedimentary strata along the high east ridge.

The folding process left distinctive stripes and whorls — circular ridges with designs similar to giant human fingerprints. These designs are visible on the flank of Rainbow Mountain looking across Franklin Creek. In many places the recrystallized rocks developed cleavage — cracks in the formation. They stand nearly vertical — masses of protruding rock that appear to stand on end. In the rocks you might find rich specimens of free silver, horn silver, copper, lead, zinc and if truly lucky, a piece of gray quartz with shiny flecks of gold.





The valley's U-shape is evidence of glacier action. The Kaweah River has since cut a channel in the bottom, but the glaciation and the contour can be viewed by standing at the bend where the valley begins a gentle climb to Farewell Gap, a mile away.

The natural communities of scrubby manzanita and chinquapin thickets make patchworks on the sunny slopes of Empire Mountain; blue sage crawls up the avalanche paths; lodgepole pines stand straight and tall above the manzanita; aspen flutter in mountain breezes, and along the Kaweah River which tumbles toward a spectacular waterfall, grassy meadows surge to the river's edge, and Alpine fell fields stretch below Farewell Gap.

Between May and September a wide variety of wildflowers blooms through-

out these warm months. There are cornflowers, baby's breath, wild parsnip, daisies, sunflowers, and columbine. Along the river trail, Indian paintbrush provides clumps of fire-red color. In the pungent sage, Sego lilies open their butterfly-like petals during the day; and on a midsummer's night, Blazing Stars, with their clusters of beautiful purple blossoms resemble comets — shooting stars in the night. On the trail to Mosquito Lakes, spires of deep orange Tiger Lilies contrast vividly against the forest green; and a variety of mushrooms festoons the path. A careful observer might even discover the rare and delicate snowdrop hiding beneath the protective branches of mountain chaparral.

Throughout these miniature climate zones, many kinds of animals flourish. In the chinquapin thickets chipmunks har-

vest seeds; bull snakes slide through grassy meadows in search of field mice; marauding squirrels hunt for birds' nests and raid them for eggs while golden mantle ground squirrels scamper about campgrounds in search of food, intimidating campers with their comical antics. Snowshoe rabbits survive the winters by nibbling bark from aspen trees.

The most amusing animal inhabiting the wildlife communities is the marmot. Bright-eyed, sassy and quick, they pop up unexpectedly on large boulders. They have yellow-brown fur and live in burrows much as their relatives, the prairie dogs of the Western Plains. They communicate with sharp whistles, warning one another of danger and dart into their tunnels at the slightest hint of danger. And up in the cirques and along the boulder-filled streams that descend from glaciated lakes, they play on snowfields still cold and crusted in August.

Long ago the wolverines and cougars became extinct, victims of uncontrolled hunting and eradication campaigns. With their passing, the mule deer became the ubiquitous animal in the valley. The deer graze openly and unafraid on hillsides and come down for water at dusk. By hiking through the forest groves, it is easy to discover their sleeping places under thick branching pine trees; and on the trails, early morning hikers can find footprints in the soft dust. Black bears also roam the area and shuffle down from the high mountain ridges after dark.

The river plays host to thrushes, finches, and warblers. Swallows, bluegreen jays of the air, swoop down over the water at twilight scooping in insects as they pass. They are accompanied by bats from nearby limestone caves. And in several places along the river, water ousels have built nests. Under the chaparral along the river's edge, towhees scratch for their special likes, and Sierra grouse strut about with chicks close behind. They are especially fond of aspen catkins and seed. Sierra chickadees and red-shafted flickers pick insects, grubs, and larvae from trees; and in the tops of the red firs, scores of blackbirds assemble for their migratory flights. And loud debates are held by scrub jays as they scold each other over territorial rights.

Hiking the trails that wend through these islands of wildlife and natural com-



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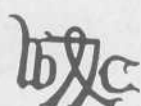
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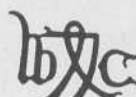
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munities, and traverse the majestic peaks, is a major part of the excitement of Mineral King. There are several half-day and one day trips. As a first attempt, or altitude adjustment hike, try Soda Spring. Follow the dirt road past the pack station to the giant cedar at the end of the trail, keep right along the river until rust sediments that flow from the spring mark its location. The water is carbonate with iron and other minerals. Take along fresh lemon, sugar and cups. Dip carefully as to not disturb the sediment; squeeze a wedge of lemon into your soda water, add sugar, and you have a zesty, tantalizing lemon fizz.

Paralleling the south side of the river is the trail to Cold Springs Campground. On foot or on horseback, the trip to Franklin Creek is an easy hike. Lower Groundhog Meadow is reached by taking Monarch Lake Trail and following the trail markers. After a short climb, the Hockett Meadow Trail crosses boulder-filled Mosquito and Mineral Creeks; creek climbing and boulder hopping is an adventure if that route is taken. On the hike to Timber Gap, carry water. The trail winds back and forth across the front of Empire Mountain. It leads to the Gap where old mining cabin sites and wood piles remain. The old mine road contours back across the face of Empire and leads to the shafts of Empire Mine. Giant chunks of quartz with crystals the size of two fingers can be picked up around the openings. The upper shaft is still open and dangerous. It drops more than 100 feet into the glory hole.

One of the most rewarding trails is to Mosquito Lakes. The five Mosquitos lie like stepping stones up the mountain, each nestled in an amphitheater varying from wooded surroundings to monolithic, cathedral-like walls of granite rising like spires and organ pipes around the lake.

In your visit to Mineral King you will find no evidence that Indians ever lived here. The first systematic recording of a history began with the explorations of Josiah Whitney. A California survey party reached the Sierra crest in 1804, and the Union Army built Hockett Trail from Three Rivers across the range to Fort Independence. It was the boasting of Henry Parole, who had spent time in prison, that brought the first influx of visitors. Then J. A. Crabtree, a devout spiritualist, found a rich vein of ore in

White Chief Bowl, and the rush was on.

As the lust for gold and silver throbbed in the national veins, it played over the Sierra Nevada like summer lightning. Mineral King was host to the excitement for 10 years. When it was over, the name that stood out among all others was Tom Fowler. He came out of Visalia making more noise than all the prospectors. He attracted money from San Francisco and built the tunnels into Empire Mountain. Boasting that with the wealth he would dig from his Empire Mine, he would "buy the state and all the shysters in it," he provided newspapers with flamboyant headlines. He brought out the first silver — a 105-pound bar. The mine, however, refused to live up to Fowler's promises, and he died without fulfilling his dream. Mineral King never produced another bar of bullion.

In the 20's the "flivvers" chugged up the rutted narrow road, and visitors began to build cabins. They came and stayed the length of the warm summer months. In winter, when the road is blocked, the valley can be entered only on snowshoes. Currently Mineral King is the subject of a long legal debate. Since 1965, conservationists have fought to keep Mineral King a natural wilderness while the Forest Service and Disney Corporation have fought to turn it into a Disney ski resort.

To those who come to Mineral King, whatever the reason, it offers a legion of answers. In the summer, wildlife roams the valley and inhabits the meadows; wildflowers carpet the hillsides; fish swim in crystal waters; and soft breezes, cool nights, crisp air, and rushing streams, surrounded by Alpine grandeur are here for the taking. The special attractions of this mountain valley bring peace of mind that cannot be obtained in any other way. ☐

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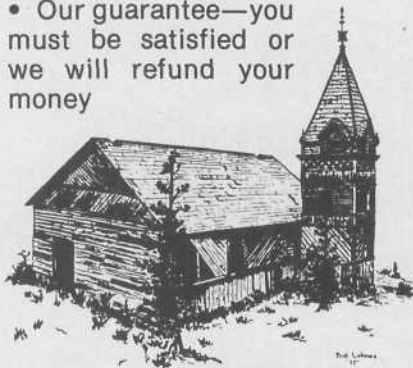


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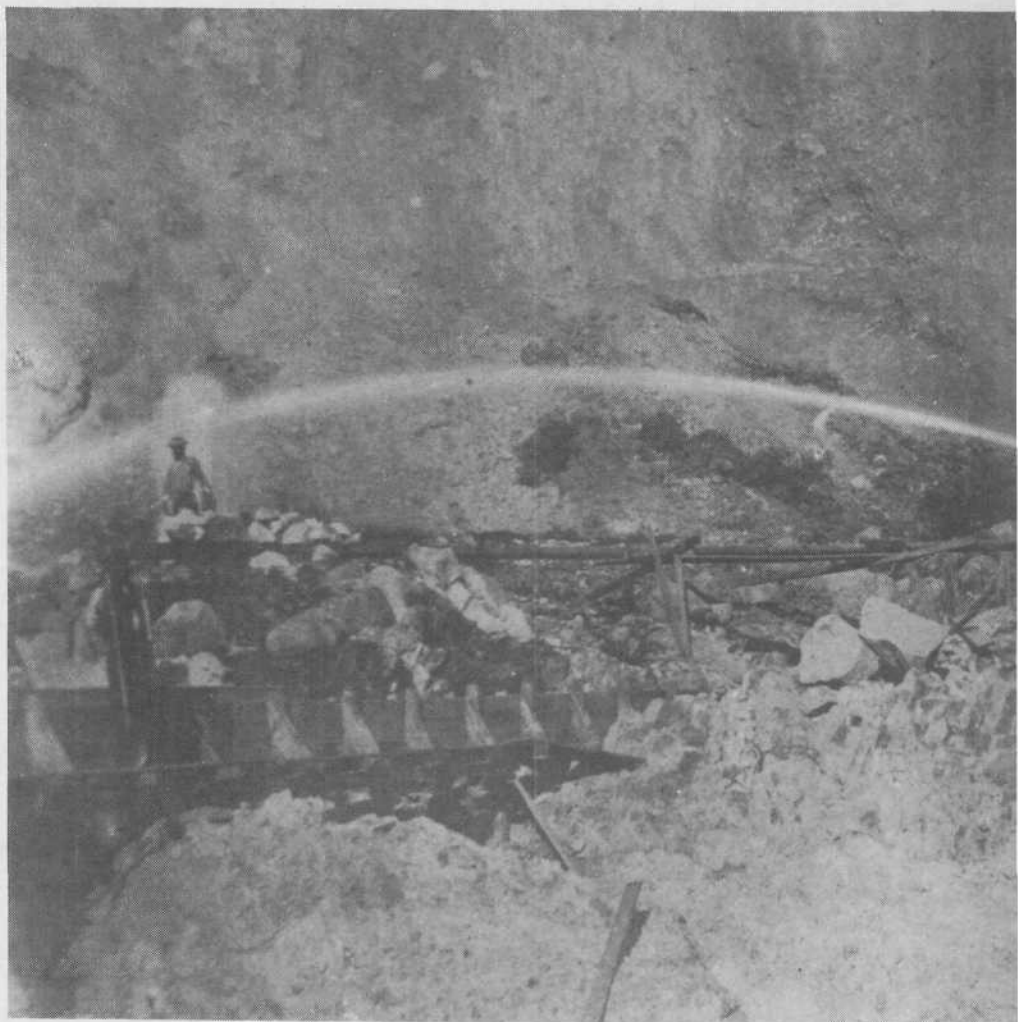
# The Great Hydraulic

THE CANYON'S natural stillness is broken by sounds of feverish activity. A dozen men struggle with a lengthy canvas hose, while two others aim the cumbersome iron nozzle — called a "monitor" by the miners. Underneath, a group of Chinamen position the wooden sluice boxes. Finally, all is ready. The foreman shouts an order to the reservoir crew atop the hill, and within seconds a powerful spray of white water surges from the monitor directly into the cliff. Boulders, gravel and dirt abruptly melt before the eyes. Immense chunks of earth collapse in watery heaps, then churn downward into the long sluice boxes. Below, the river turns sullen brown.

After 15 minutes the white surge lessens and gradually trickles out. The hill-top reservoir is exhausted. As the artificial lake slowly replenishes, fed by a wooden flume that brings water from five miles up-river, the miners pick clean the riffles of the sluice boxes. Flecks of shiny yellow metal are carefully collected and deposited in leather pouches. Then the whole process starts over again.

A similar drama is going on just across the river. Crews on both sides of the canyon work 12 hours a day, now that water is high on the East Fork of the San Gabriel River. The year is 1872. Henry C. Roberts and William C. Ferguson are locked in their famous hydraulic mining race to recover the golden treasures of Southern California's most auriferous watercourse.

Stories of gold on the San Gabriel River go back more than a century. Since the original discovery by a party of "boomers" returning from the Kern River diggings in 1854, the precious yellow



metal has been panned, sluiced, long tommed, hydraulicked and blasted out in quantities that make the river one of the major gold producers in the southern half of the state. Estimates of the total yield vary from \$4 million to \$13 million, depending on which authority you choose to believe. The largest strike occurred along the middle reaches of the East Fork during the years 1859-1862. The raucous mining camp of Eldorado-

ville sprang up overnight, only to die a sudden and violent death during one of the river's periodic rampages. But nothing in the long saga of mining of the San Gabriel was as incredible as the Roberts-Ferguson hydraulic race.

Henry C. Roberts was a merchant by trade. He first entered San Gabriel Canyon in 1859 to operate a stage line to the mines. In 1861 he built a store along the lower East Fork — later the site of Fol-

Right: Hydraulicking and sluicing  
at Texas Point Mine, Lytle Creek,  
ca. 1872. Below: Monitor in action at  
the Henry Roberts Mine, 1872.  
Photos courtesy Huntington Library.

# Race



by **JOHN W.  
ROBINSON**

lows Camp. Located on a mesa above the river, Roberts' store was one of the few structures to survive the great torrent of 1862. Roberts watched the steady stream of nuggets which came to his scales from the Cecil Graham Hill claim immediately across the river, and in 1870 decided to purchase the claim and exploit it with new hydraulic machinery just appearing on the market.

At about the same time, William C.

Ferguson, prosperous Los Angeles merchant and livery stable owner, purchased a hillside claim immediately adjoining Roberts' on the west. Ferguson also had his eye on hydraulic mining. He and several other Los Angeles businessmen incorporated the San Gabriel Mining Company and almost immediately commenced operations.

Hydraulic gold mining — washing down auriferous hillsides with a power-

ful jet of water — was an established mode of operation in the Mother Lode country of northern California, but the process had received only fleeting use in the southern half of the state, mainly because of a chronic shortage of water. Only the largest watercourses provided sufficient flow to support major hydraulic enterprises, and then for only part of the year. Fortunately for Roberts and Ferguson, the San Gabriel was a plentiful stream for four or five months annually.

In order to "hydraulic" effectively, the water must have great force, or "head," in miner's language. For Roberts and Ferguson, this required the construction of conduits from far up river and artificial reservoirs a thousand feet above the mines. The volume and pressure thus acquired was necessary to force water through the hoses and moni-





*Powerful spray from hydraulic mining monitor at Texas Point Mine, Lytle Creek, ca. 1872.*

tors with sufficient power to tear away the gold-bearing rocks, gravels, clay and dirt, then wash these ingredients through long sluice boxes to recover the gold.

The walls of San Gabriel Canyon are precipitous and unstable. No local surveyor or engineer could be found to undertake the task of plotting the course and grade for the conduits and supervising their construction over such difficult mountain terrain. Finally, Roberts was able to hire the services of an English engineer named Sam Hawley. Ferguson acquired the talents of a surveyor named W.W. Woodman. By the fall of 1871 the surveying was completed and the race was on.

The narrow canyon of the East Fork reverberated with the sounds of pick, shovel, hammer and blasting powder as both crews, working long shifts under the close supervision of Hawley and Woodman, hewed the ditches and built the flumes for the paralleling conduits. Roberts' flume was high on the west wall of the canyon, five miles in length. Ferguson's ditch and flume followed the east slope lower down from four miles up river.

No one knows just how it began, but a spirited rivalry erupted between the crews of Roberts and Ferguson. Some rather substantial bets were made over who would first complete their conduit and commence hydraulic mining. The two claim owners were on none too

friendly terms, allegedly because Ferguson jumped a claim previously sought by Roberts.\$

Roberts' crew faced the more difficult job, as the route of his conduit began a mile farther up canyon and traversed more precipitous terrain. But Roberts had the advantage of one of the best mining engineers around in Sam Hawley. The indomitable Englishman scrambled up brushy mountainsides, traversed steep canyons, and was lowered by rope over sheer cliffs, tracing the tortuous course of his flume. He carried with him what was known as a "tram" — an A-shaped wooden instrument with a spirit level in the cross piece — to secure his gradient and a triangle for perpendiculars. In those days, instruments now universally used in establishing grades and lines, such as a theodolite, were practically unknown.

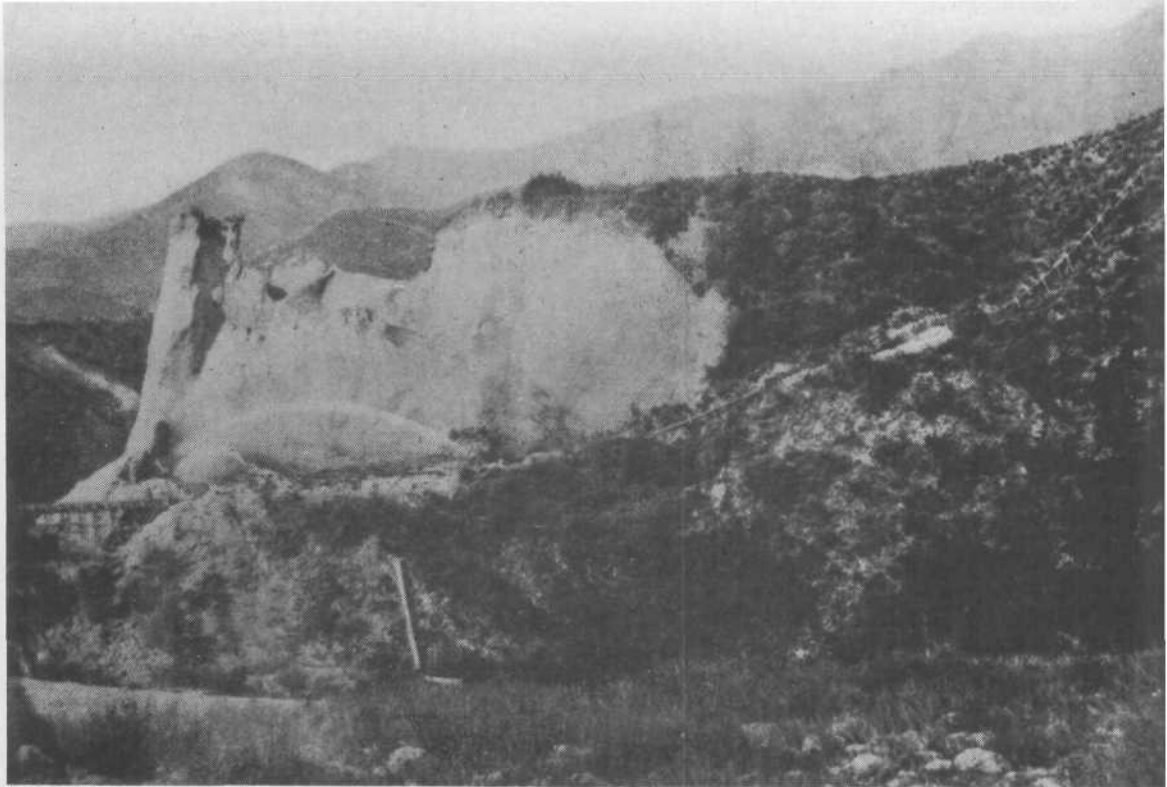
San Gabriel Canyon historian Sedley Peck described the work of Hawley and his men: "Dams were built to divert the river water into settling basins where the sand, which would have quickly clogged the ditches, was removed. Conduits were blasted and hewn from the rock walls of the canyon, flumes on steel supports driven into sheer cliffs, carried on high trestles across gulches and canyons, through clay lined ditches cross high mesas, by gentle grades which soon raised the level, until the water was finally brought to the storage lakes a thousand feet about the rapidly falling

canyon floor."

Across the canyon, Ferguson's crew labored with equal vigor, but not gifted with the services of an engineer of Hawley's caliber, they encountered grading problems and fell behind schedule.

The hectic canyon activity caught the attention of Los Angeles newspapers. The *Star* sent a correspondent into the East Fork to report the progress. On October 31, 1871 he wrote, "Times on the San Gabriel River are getting lively. Henry Roberts and Co. have finished four miles of ditch, mostly heavy work, used over 30,000 feet of lumber for fluming, got the hydraulic ready for action, and will commence piping in a day or two." Several weeks later (December 8), in a long article on San Gabriel Canyon mining, the correspondent reported, "The San Gabriel Mining Company (Ferguson) finished a ditch four miles long, covering 200 acres . . . building a suspension bridge 200 feet high to carry their flume across Cape Horn Canyon. . . Roberts' flume is almost completed . . . a portion of the flume is suspended on the face of an overhanging cliff with iron bars drilled into solid rock."

Roberts was first to complete his conduit, considered by historian J.M. Guinn as "one of the most complete and substantial ever constructed in any mining camp in the state." Ferguson finished about two weeks later. Both conduits were completed in amazingly short time considering the difficult terrain — a trib-



*The Henry Roberts Mine, ca. 1873. Note the flume descending the hillside.*

ute to the determination of the two mine owners, the hard labor of over 100 Mexican and Chinese miners, the spirit of competition, not to mention the estimated \$60,000 expended in the dual efforts.

In January 1872 both Roberts and Ferguson turned on their hydraulic monitors, accompanied by the cheers of spectators assembled for the occasion, and commenced water-blasting away their hillside claims. Initially their ventures appeared to be highly successful as each recovered substantial quantities of gold — \$5,000 the first month, it was reported. Later they were averaging about \$1,000 per month, according to Sedley Peck.

The apparent success of Roberts and Ferguson encouraged others to try their hand in hydraulic mining. The names of Matfield, Crow, Higbie, Ford, Caley and Justice appeared on the register sheet of the county mining recorder, all bent on duplicating the efforts of Roberts and Ferguson. But the most noteworthy of the later hydraulic ventures in the canyon was the famous fiasco of "Uncle" Dave Buell. Buell secured a hillside claim just downriver from Roberts, but could not gain water rights to the East Fork. So after some weeks he decided to convey water to his claim from the untapped North Fork of the San Gabriel. He hired a young engineer named Simpson to survey his ditch line. To get water from the North to the East Fork, Simp-

son proposed a 700-foot tunnel through the ridge separating the two watersheds. Buell agreed to this plan and work commenced on the ditch and tunnel. Canyon pioneer Jim Roberts, son of Henry Roberts, described the results: "Great preparations were made for the opening of the works and visions of unlimited nuggets of gold crowded Buell's mind. Then the intake gates were opened and watchful waiting was the order of the day. But night fell and still no trace of water had appeared. Buell betook himself up along the conduit and walked through the dry tunnel. A few hundred feet from the upper portal he heard the sound of rushing waters and he discovered that Simpson had lost the grade." The tunnel had been bored uphill! Simpson left in disgrace and Buell went broke and departed for Mexico. The long abandoned tunnel, partly caved in and both portals hidden in brush, still lies high above the Forks of the San Gabriel.

Despite repeated breakdowns in their ditches and flumes, Roberts and Ferguson continued to work their claims. Roberts apparently was more successful; in the summer of 1873 he turned down an offer of \$250,000 for his claim from a San Francisco Chinese Tong, according to Peck.

Roberts should have accepted the offer. As it turned out, the returns in gold markedly decreased as his powerful monitor blasted deeper and deeper into

his hillside claim. And then, legal obstacles arose. The large scale hydraulic operations were sending down floods of muddy water into the populated San Gabriel Valley, discoloring drinking water and clogging irrigation pipes. Valley residents secured a court injunction against the hydraulic miners in the summer of 1874, and this was soon followed by state laws designed to prevent the pollution of domestic water supplies. Roberts, Ferguson and the rest of the canyon hydraulic miners were obliged to close down their gold-seeking enterprises, and all but very minor hydraulic efforts ceased forever in San Gabriel Canyon.

Today, few signs remain of the Roberts and Ferguson hydraulic mines of a century past. The washed-down cliffs, hidden by brush, can be located above Follows Camp by the diligent eye, and traces of the mountainside conduits can still be found. Down at Follows Camp, Mrs. Sedley Peck can still show you the old iron monitor used by Roberts, fastened to a granite boulder above a bronze plaque commemorating the saga. The East Fork of the San Gabriel is quiet now, save for the sound of churning water, the rustling of the afternoon breeze through the trees, and an occasional shout of glee from a Sunday gold-panner who discovers a fleck of shining yellow in the bottom of his pan. The ghosts of the old hydraulic miners have long since departed. □



# ALL'S NOT SMO

by MARY FRANCES STRONG

photos by Jerry Strong

THE MORNING sky was exactly as we had ordered. Huge, cottony clouds floated across an azure sky. It would be a great day for exploring. True, there were dark cumulus clouds on the far horizon. However, after nearly a week of cloudy, rainy weather, we chose to ignore them and set our sights for the Velvet Mining District in the Trinity Range west of Lovelock, Nevada.

Our interest in this locale had been aroused by a 1923 mining journal report which stated: "Some good fire opals have been found in the volcanic rocks of the district." I must admit we were skeptical about finding fire opal, since any deposit of gem material would surely be under claim. Such reports generally turn out to be common opal which often occurs in conjunction with agate and jasper. On an earlier trip (*Desert*, July 1973), we had collected some beautiful opalite, agate and petrified wood near the Eagle-Picher Mine also in the Trinity Range about 10 miles north. Perhaps the Velvet District would be as rewarding.

Prospects for an interesting trip seemed good as we headed west from Lovelock on Western Avenue. When the paved road turned north, we kept ahead for a half-mile then turned left and traveled southwesterly toward a pass in the Trinities. Off to the southeast, we soon had a panoramic view of the Humboldt River Valley flanked by the towering Humboldt Range. We also noted some unusual "mounds" and later discovered they were "tufa domes" along a former shoreline of prehistoric Lake Lahontan.

During the recent 5,000 or so years, evaporation has reduced this once tremendous body of water to only a few vestigial lakes such as Pyramid, Carson, Winnemucca and Walker. The Humboldt and Carson Sinks, as well as Sand Springs Marsh, are residual playas left by Lake Lahontan. The tufa domes, consisting of calcium carbonate, were precipitated from mineral-laden water as evaporation progressed. In some cases,

algae may have assisted in the process. Tufa domes are found in many places in the west and their size and shape vary widely. At this locale, they resemble "rock pineapples," some possibly 20 feet high.

Approximately nine miles from Lovelock, the road we were following gently curved west and we could see the pass in the distance. It also began to deteriorate into a two-track trail. In some places, considerable water had run down the

north track, eroding it deeply. We drove along on quite a slant. From this point, the route is not advisable for trailers. There are several open areas in the vicinity for camping.

We continued another four miles and noted there hadn't been any vehicles over the route since the storm a few days previous. When a horn honked behind us, we really jumped. Since they couldn't possibly pass, we concluded they wanted us to stop. It was even more





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**NAVAJO SILVER** by Arthur Woodward. A summary of the history of silversmithing by the Navajo tribe. Woodward presents a comprehensive view of the four major influences on Navajo design, showing how the silversmiths adapted the art forms of European settlers and Indians in the eastern United States, as well as those of the Spanish and Mexican colonists of the Southwest. Paperback, well illustrated, 100 pages, \$4.95.

**FETISHES And Carvings of the Southwest** by Oscar T. Branson. People all over the world have made and used fetishes since the beginning of time. Author Branson, using the same beautiful all-color format as his *Turquoise, The Gem of the Centuries*, describes and illustrates the fetishes used by the Indian tribes of the Southwest. Large format, 64 pages, \$7.95.

**TURQUOISE, The Gem of the Centuries** by Oscar T. Branson. The most complete and lavishly illustrated all color book on turquoise. Identifies 43 localities, treated and stabilized material, gives brief history of the gem and details the individual techniques of the Southwest Indian Tribes. Heavy paperback, large format, 68 pages, \$7.95.

**SOUTHWESTERN INDIAN TRIBES** by Tom Bahti. An excellent description, history and current status of the Indians of the Southwest, including dates of their ceremonies and celebrations. Profusely illustrated with 4-color photographs of the Indian Country and the arts and crafts of the many tribes. Large format, heavy paperback, 72 pages, \$2.50.

**HOPi SILVER, The History and Hallmarks of Hopi Silversmithing** by Margaret Wright. Years of research have made this book an historically descriptive piece on the Hopi silversmiths. Illustrated with many photographs of silverwork, and more than a dozen pages devoted to the various hallmarks beginning in 1890 and continued through 1971, naming the silversmith, the clan, the village, dates worked and whether or not the silverwork is still being made. Paperback, 100 pages, \$4.95.

**FORKED TONGUES AND BROKEN TREATIES** Edited by Donald E. Worcester. This book gives us a better understanding of the unequal struggle of native against immigrant while our nation was being explored and settled. Profusely illustrated with excellent photos, a "must" reference for historians, students, librarians. Hardcover, 494 pages, \$9.95.

**DICTIONARY OF PREHISTORIC INDIAN ARTIFACTS OF THE AMERICAN SOUTHWEST** by Franklin Barnett. A highly informative book that both illustrates and describes Indian artifacts of the Southwest, it is a valuable guide for the person interested in archaeology and anthropology. Includes 250 major types of artifacts. Each item has a photo and definition. Paperback, 130 pages, beautifully illus., \$7.95.

**INDIAN BASKET WEAVING, How to Weave Pomo, Yurok, Pima and Navajo Baskets** by Sandra Corrie Newman. Besides explicit information on gathering and preparation of natural materials and weaving techniques, the author brings out the meaning of the craft to the partakers of these traditions. Paperback, lavishly illustrated, 91 pages, \$4.95.

**THE CHEMEHUEVIS** by Carobeth Laird. A superb ethnography destined to become a classic in anthropology, by the author of *Encounter With An Angry God*. Based on information provided by the author's husband, George, a Chemehuevi tribesman, the work is a delight to both scholars and general readers. With glossary, maps, index, place-name index and appendices on language and cartography. Beautifully decorated. Paperback, 349 pages, \$8.95.

**LAND OF POCO TIEMPO** by Charles F. Lummis. A reprint of the famous writer and historian of his adventures among the Indians of New Mexico. Lummis was one of the foremost writers of the West. Paperback, 236 pages, \$2.95.

**ISHI IN TWO WORLDS** by Theodora Kroeber. Ishi was perhaps the most remarkable personality of this century. A Yahi Indian, and lone survivor of a doomed tribe, he was found in the corral of a slaughter house near Oroville, Calif. For the rest of his life, Ishi lived under the care and protection of the staff of the University of California's Museum of Anthropology. An incredibly sad but beautifully told story. Hardcover, many excellent photos, both color and black and white, 262 pages, \$14.95.

**TEMALPAKH** by Lowell John Bean and Katherine Siva Saubel. Temalpakh means "from the earth," in Cahuilla, and covers the many uses of plants used for food, medicine, rituals and those used in the manufacturing of baskets, sandals, hunting tools; and plants used for dwellings. Makes for a better understanding of environmental and cultural relationships. Well illustrated, 225 pages, hardcover, \$10.00; paperback, \$6.50.

**INDIAN JEWELRY MAKING** by Oscar T. Branson. This book is intended as a step-by-step how-to-do-it method of making jewelry. An intriguing all-color publication that is an asset to the consumer as well as to the producer of Indian jewelry today because it provides the basic knowledge of how jewelry is made so one can judge if it is well made and basically good design. Paperback, large format, \$7.95.

**ROCK DRAWINGS OF THE COSO RANGE** by Campbell Grant, James Baird and J. Kenneth Pringle. A Maturango Museum publication, this book tells of sites of rock art in the Coso Range which, at 4,000 feet, merges with the flatlands of the northern Mojave Desert. Paperback, illustrated, detailed drawings, maps, 144 pages, \$3.95.

**THE CREATIVE OJO BOOK** by Diane Thomas. Instructions for making the colorful yarn talismans originally made by Pueblo and Mexican Indians. Included are directions for wall-hung ojos, necklaces, mobiles and gift-wrap tie-ons. Well illustrated with 4-color photographs, 52 pages, paperback, \$2.95.

**SOUTHWEST INDIAN CRAFT ARTS** by Clara Lee Tanner. One of the best books on the subject, covering all phases of the culture of the Indians of the Southwest. Authentic in every way. Color and black and white illustrations, line drawings. Hardcover, 205 pages, \$15.00.

**RELICS OF THE REDMAN** by Marvin & Helen Davis. Relics can be valuable! Those dating back to Indian history in our land are becoming almost priceless, say the authors. How to search for these "hard to find" Indian relics, where to search and at what time of year, and types of tools needed, are among the many helpful suggestions given. Large format, many color and b/w illustrations, a striking cover. Paperback, 63 pages, \$3.95.

**ENCOUNTER WITH AN ANGRY GOD** by Carobeth Laird. A fascinating true story of the author's marriages to anthropologist John Peabody Harrington, the "angry god," and to the remarkable Chemehuevi Indian, George Laird. The appeal of this amazing memoir is so broad it has drawn rave reviews throughout the country and is being hailed as a classic. Hardcover, 230 pages, \$8.95.

## Gems/Minerals

**FIELD GUIDE TO ROCKS AND MINERALS** by Frederick H. Pough. Authoritative guide to identification of rocks and minerals. Experts recommend this for all amateurs as one of the best. Many color illustrations. Hardcover, \$8.95.

**GEM MINERALS OF IDAHO** by John Beckwith. Contains information on physical and optical characteristics of minerals; the history, lore, and fashioning of many gems. Also eleven rewarding field trips to every sort of collecting area. Slick paperback, maps and photos. 123 pages, \$4.95.

**CALIFORNIA GEM TRAILS** by Darold J. Henry. This completely revised fourth edition is the most authoritative guide for collectors of rocks, gemstones, minerals and fossils. Profusely illustrated with maps and contains excellent descriptive text. Paperback, \$3.00.

**HOW TO TUMBLE POLISH GEMSTONES AND MAKE TUMBLED GEM JEWELRY** by Jerome Wexler. The author gives full details on how he does his work. By following his instructions, you too can turn rough rock into fascinating gems and make jewelry of which you will be proud. Paperback, \$2.25.

**UTAH GEM TRAILS** by Bessie W. Simpson. The casual rockhound or collector interested in collecting petrified wood, fossils, agate and crystals will find this guide most helpful. The book does not give permission to collect in areas written about, but simply describes and maps the areas. Paperback, illustrated, maps, \$3.50.

**WESTERN GEM HUNTERS ATLAS** by Cy Johnson and Son. A helpful book of detailed maps showing gem and mineral locations, from California to the Dakotas and British Columbia to Texas. Markings note private claims, gem claims (fee charged) and rock and gem locations. Also suggested reading for more detail on areas included and other rich areas not included in this publication. Paperback, maps galore, collector's library, 79 pages, \$3.00.

**ROCKS AND MINERALS OF CALIFORNIA** compiled by Vinson Brown, David Allan and James Stark. This revised edition will save you hours of time by the description and pictures of rocks and minerals found in this state. Color pictures with clearly developed keys show you how to identify what you have found and gives you fine tools to increase your ability as a field collector. Paperback, well illustrated with photos, locality maps, charts and quadrangle map information. 200 pages, \$4.95.

**DESERT GEM TRAILS** by Mary Frances Strong. DESERT Magazine's Field Trip Editor's popular field guide for rockhounds. The "bible" for both amateur and veteran rockhounds and back country explorers, and covers the gems and minerals of the Mojave and Colorado Deserts. Heavy paperback, 80 pages, \$2.00.

**A FIELD GUIDE TO THE GEMS AND MINERALS OF MEXICO** by Paul Willard Johnson. Tips on food, maps and information, driving and trailering in Mexico. Border regulations, wrapping specimens of gems and minerals and all about your proposed mining venture are covered. Paperback, many good maps and illustrations, 96 pages, \$2.00.

**GEM TRAILS OF ARIZONA** by Bessie W. Simpson. This field guide is prepared for the hobbyist and almost every location is accessible by car or pickup. Accompanied by maps to show sandy roads, steep rocky hills, etc., as cautions. Laws regarding collecting on Federal and Indian land outlined. Paperback, 88 pages, illus., \$4.00.

**NEW MEXICO GEM TRAILS** by Bessie W. Simpson. Field guide for rockhounds with 40 maps and 65 locations. 88 pages, profusely illustrated. \$4.00.

## Wildlife/Plantlife

**A FIELD GUIDE TO WESTERN REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS** by Robert C. Stebbins. A Peterson Field Guide, 207 species, 569 illustrations, 185 in full color, 192 maps. The best book of this type. Hardcover, \$6.95.

**THE LIFE OF THE DESERT** by Ann and Myron Sutton. This fascinating volume explains all the vital inter-relationships that exist between the living things and the physical environment of our vast desert regions. More than 100 illustrations in full color. Helpful appendices contain comprehensive index and glossary. Special features on endangered species, lizards and poisonous animals. Hardcover, 232 pages, profusely illustrated, \$5.50.

**BIRDS OF THE SOUTHWESTERN DESERTS** by Gusse Thomas Smith. Thirty-one of the most commonly sighted birds of the Southwest are described and illustrated in 4-color artist drawings. Heavy paperback, 68 pages, \$3.95.

**DESERT WILDLIFE** by Edmund C. Jaeger is a series of intimate and authentic sketches depicting the lives of native animals of our Southwestern deserts, from mammals to birds and reptiles, as well as many of the lesser desert denizens such as land snails, scorpions, millepedes and common insects. Paperback, well illustrated, 308 pages, \$2.95.

**REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS OF THE AMERICAN SOUTHWEST** by M. M. Heymann. Features 68 species, all in beautiful four-color photographs. Descriptions are stated in simple, non-technical terms. Extensive text tells of their origins and life-styles today. Extremely useful book for all who enjoy watching and learning about wildlife. Paperback, 77 pages, \$4.95.

**FIELD GUIDE TO WESTERN BIRDS** by Roger Tory Peterson. The standard book for field identification sponsored by the National Audubon Society. 2nd Edition, enlarged, 658 pictures in full color. Hardcover, \$6.95.

**A FIELD GUIDE TO INSECTS of America North of Mexico** by Donald J. Borror and Richard E. White. This is the most comprehensive, authoritative and up-to-date guide to North American insects ever published. It covers 579 families of insects and has more than 1,300 line drawings and 142 color plates. Hardcover, 372 pages, glossary, references, \$6.95.

**A LIGHT-HEARTED LOOK AT THE DESERT** by Chuck Waggin. A delightfully written and illustrated book on desert animals which will be appreciated by both children and adults. The sketches are excellent and, although factual, descriptions make the animals seem like human beings. Large format, heavy quality paper, 94 pages, \$2.25.

**MOCKEL'S DESERT FLOWER NOTEBOOK** by Henry and Beverly Mockel. The well-known painter of desert wildflowers has combined his four-color sketches and black and white photographs to describe in detail so the layman can easily identify wildflowers, both large and small. Microscopic detail makes this an outstanding book for identification. Special compressed fiber cover which will not stain. 54 full-color illustrations with 72 life-size drawings and 39 photographs, 316 pages, \$5.95.

**100 DESERT WILDFLOWERS** by Natt Dodge. Each flower is illustrated with a 4-color photograph and described in detail, where found, blooming period, etc. Habitats from sea level to 4,000 feet. Slick paperback, 64 pages, \$2.00.

**100 ROADSIDE WILDFLOWERS** by Natt Dodge. A companion book and with the same format as **100 Desert Wildflowers**, this book lists 100 flowers found from 4,000 to 7,000-foot levels. Also has 4-color photographs. Slick paperback, 64 pages, \$2.00.

**COMMON EDIBLE & USEFUL PLANTS OF THE WEST** by Muriel Sweet. A description with artist drawings of edible (and those not to touch) plants along with how Indians and pioneers used them. Paperback, 64 pages, \$2.50.

**THE NORTH AMERICAN DESERTS** by Edmund C. Jaeger. A long-time authority on all phases of desert areas and life. Dr. Jaeger's book on the North American Deserts should be carried wherever you travel. It not only describes each of the individual desert areas, but has illustrated sections on desert insects, reptiles, birds, mammals and plants. 315 pages, illustrated, photographs, line drawings and maps. Hardcover, \$6.95.

**THE CALIFORNIA DESERTS** by Edmund C. Jaeger. Revised 4th edition is a standard guide to Mohave and Colorado deserts with new chapters on desert conservation and aborigines. Hardcover, \$4.95.

**COLORFUL DESERT WILDFLOWERS** by Grace and Onas Ward. Segregated into categories of red, blue, white and yellow for easier identification, there are 190 four-color photos of flowers found in the Mojave, Colorado and Western Arizona deserts, all of which also have common and scientific names plus descriptions. Heavy, slick paperback, \$4.50; hardcover, \$7.50.

**NATIVE TREES OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA** by P. Victor Peterson. Interesting and descriptive text with line drawings and four-color photos, as well as individual maps of area covered. Handy size makes it ideal for glove compartment. Paperback, 136 pages, \$2.95.

**DESERT WILD FLOWERS** by Edmund C. Jaeger. One of the most complete works ever published on flora of the Southwestern deserts. Easily understood by amateur botanists and travelers as it is informative to the professional. 322 pages, well illustrated, \$3.95.

**CALIFORNIA DESERT WILDFLOWERS** by Philip A. Munz. Illustrated with both line drawings and beautiful color photos, and descriptive text by one of the desert's finest botanists. Paperback, \$3.95.

**BOOK OF CACTUS** by Harry C. Lawson. Written for the amateur, this book tells how to plant, care for and identify cactus found in the West. The 36 pages contain 409 small photographs and descriptions of the plants. Paperback, \$2.00.

**WHAT KINDA CACTUS IZZAT?** by Reg Manning. A friendly introduction to all the principal thorny inhabitants of the Cactus Belt along the Mexican Border. This book not only calls a cactus a cactus, but more important, it points out what NOT to call a "cactus." Paperback, cleverly illustrated, 107 pages, \$2.25.

**DESERT, The American Southwest** by Ruth Kirk. Combining her knowledge of the physical characteristics of the land, and man's relation to the desert from the prehistoric past to the probable future, with her photographer's eye and enthusiasm for a strange and beautiful country, the result of Ruth Kirk's work is an extraordinarily perceptive account of the living desert. Highly recommended. Hardcover, beautifully illustrated, 334 pages, \$10.00.

**GOLDEN CHIA** by Harrison Doyle. The only reference book on the chia plant and seed. This book illustrates the great difference between the high desert chia, and the Mexican variety sold in the health food stores. If you study, practice and take to heart, especially the last ten pages of this nutritionally up-to-date, newly revised book, you will find many answers you've been searching for to the achievement of health and well being, lengthen your life expectancy measurably, and be 99% less susceptible to disease of any sort. Fourth printing, 105 pages, illustrated. Paperback, \$4.75; cloth, \$7.75.

**DEEP CANYON, A DESERT WILDERNESS** Edited by Irwin P. Ting and Bill Jennings. This is the first effort to describe for both the informed layman and the general scientist the environmental relationships of plants, people and animals in this special area of the Colorado Desert. It is also the first book ever to feature the low-desert photography of incomparable Ansel Adams. Large format, hardcover, \$12.50.

**DESERT JOURNAL, A Naturalist Reflects on Arid California** by Raymond B. Cowles in collaboration with Elna S. Bakker. This book is filled with the observations that made Cowles a top scientist and reveals the life-long curiosity that typifies the dedicated desert researcher. It will provide the occasional desert dweller as well as the year-arounder with answers to many of the little questions you have been reluctant to ask. Hardcover, well illustrated, 263 pages, \$10.95.



# Death Valley

**LOST MINES OF DEATH VALLEY** by Harold Weight. This is a new approach to the enigma of Death Valley Scotty's life and legends and gives additional insight into the Lost Gunsight and Breyfogle bonanzas, plus other Death Valley mysteries. Paperbacks, historic photographs, reference material, 86 pages, \$2.50.

**50 YEARS IN DEATH VALLEY** by Harry P. Gower. First hand account of the dramatic mining years by a man who spent his life in the mysterious valley. Describes the famous characters of Death Valley. Paperback, illustrated, 145 pages, \$2.95.

**A NATURALIST'S DEATH VALLEY** by Dr. Edmund C. Jaeger. In this revised third edition, Dr. Jaeger covers and uncovers some of the mysteries of this once humid, and now arid trough. He tells of the Indians of Death Valley, the mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fishes, insects, trees, wild flowers and fossils. Paperback, 66 pages, \$2.00.

**BALLARAT**, Compiled by Paul Hubbard, Doris Bray and George Pipkin. Ballarat, now a ghost town in the Panamint Valley, was once a flourishing headquarters during the late 1880s and 1900s for the prospectors who searched for silver and gold in that desolate area of California. The authors tell of the lives and relate anecdotes of the famous old-timers. First published in 1965, this reprinted edition is an asset to any library. Paperback, illustrated, 98 pages, \$3.00.

**CAMELS AND SURVEYORS IN DEATH VALLEY** by Arthur Woodward. A diary-like accounting of the day-by-day experiences of an expedition for a survey of the boundary between California and the Territory of Nevada. Paperback, 73 pages, \$2.00.

**SELDOM SEEN SLIM** by Tom Murray. Profiles and vignettes of the colorful "single blanket jackass prospectors" who lived and died as they looked for gold and silver in Death Valley. Slick paperback, exclusive photos of the old-timers, 65 pages, \$3.00.

**LOAFING ALONG DEATH VALLEY TRAILS** by William Caruthers. Author Caruthers was a newspaper man and a ghost writer for early movie stars, politicians and industrialists. He "slowed down" long enough to move to Death Valley and there wrote his on-the-spot story that will take you through the quest for gold on the deserts of California and Nevada. Hardcover, old photos, 187 pages, \$4.25.

**DEATH VALLEY JEEP TRAILS** by Roger Mitchell. A guide to the large network of back country roads leading to old mining camps, stamp mills and other little-known areas of Death Valley National Monument. Paperback, illustrated, 36 pages, \$1.00.

**RHYOLITE** by Harold Weight. Tales of Shorty, Harris, Ernest Cross, Bob Montgomery, M.M. Beaty and the men and women who established the famous mining town near Death Valley. Paperback, historic photos, 40 pages, \$1.00.

**DEATH VALLEY GHOST TOWNS** by Stanley Paher. Death Valley, today a National Monument, has in its environs the ghostly remains of many mines and mining towns. The author has also written of ghost towns in Nevada and Arizona and knows how to blend a brief outline of each of Death Valley's ghost towns with historic photos. For sheer drama, fact or fiction, it produces an enticing package for ghost town buffs. Paperback, illustrated, large format. \$2.95.

**MINES OF DEATH VALLEY** by L. Burr Belden. About fabulous bonanzas, prospectors and lost mines. Paperback, \$1.95.

**DEATH VALLEY SCOTTY TOLD ME** by Eleanor Jordan Houston. A fascinating and unusual recount of famous Death Valley Scotty's adventures as told to the author while she and her ranger husband were Scotty's nearest neighbors in 1948. Some of these escapades have never been told before. Illustrated, 116 pages, \$1.75.

**BACKPACKING DEATH VALLEY** by Chuck Gebhardt. This 4x5 inch guide fits pocket or pack and provides temperature, terrain, equipment and survival information on hiking Death Valley. 22 easy-to-read maps accompany 18 day hikes and 28 backpack treks. \$2.50.

## Baja California

**THE CAVE PAINTINGS OF BAJA CALIFORNIA**, The Great Murals of an Unknown People by Harry Crosby. A sequel to his *The King's Highway in Baja California*, the author presents a tantalizing disclosure of a sweeping panorama of great murals executed by an unknown people in a land which has barely been penetrated by man. Beautifully illustrated with color reproductions of cave paintings and sketches of figures which appear on cave walls in four different mountain ranges. Hardcover, large format, 174 pages, \$18.50.

**NEW BAJA HANDBOOK for the Off-Pavement Motorist in Lower California** by James T. Crow. Discover the real Baja that lies beyond the edge of the paved road, the unspoiled, out-of-the-way places unknown to the credit-card tourist. The author, drawing from his extensive travels in these parts, tells where to go, what to take along, the common sense of getting ready. Illustrated, paperback, 95 pages, \$3.95.

**BAJA CALIFORNIA GUIDEBOOK** by Walt Wheelock and Howard E. Gulick, formerly Gerhard and Gulick's *Lower California Guidebook*. This totally revised fifth edition is up-to-the-minute for the Transpeninsular paved highway, with new detailed mileages and descriptive text. Corrections and additions are shown for the many side roads. ORV routes, trails and little-known byways to desert, mountain, beach and bay recesses. Folding route maps are color and newly revised for current accuracy. Indispensable reference guide, hardcover, \$10.50.

**A FIELD GUIDE TO THE COMMON AND INTERESTING PLANTS OF BAJA CALIFORNIA** by Jeanette Coyle and Norman Roberts. Over 250 plants are described with 189 color photos. Includes past and present uses of the plants by aborigines and people in Baja today. Scientific, Spanish and common names are given. Excellent reference and highly recommended. 224 pages, paperback, \$8.50.

**BAJA CALIFORNIA OVERLAND** by L. Burr Belden. Practical guide to Lower California as far as La Paz by auto with material gleaned from extensive study trip sponsored by Univ. of Calif. Includes things to see and accommodations. Paperback, \$1.95.

**CAMPING AND CLIMBING IN BAJA** by John Robinson. Contains excellent maps and photos. A guidebook to the Sierra San Pedro Martir and the Sierra Juarez of Upper Baja Calif. Much of this land is unexplored and unmapped still. Car routes to famous ranches and camping spots in palm-studded canyons with trout streams tempt weekend tourists who aren't up to hiking. Paperback, 96 pages, \$2.95.

**BAJA [California, Mexico]** by Cliff Cross. Updated to include the new transpeninsula highway, the author has outlined in detail all of the services, precautions, outstanding sights and things to do in Baja. Maps and photos galore, with large format. 170 pages, \$4.95.

**THE KING'S HIGHWAY IN BAJA CALIFORNIA** by Harry Crosby. A fascinating recounting of a trip by muleback over the rugged spine of the Baja California peninsula, along an historic path created by the first Spanish padres. It tells of the life and death of the old Jesuit missions. It describes how the first European settlers were lured into the mountains along the same road. Magnificent photographs, many in color, highlight the book. Hard cover, 182 pages, large format, \$14.50.

**PALM CANYONS OF BAJA CALIFORNIA** by Randall Henderson. The beautiful palm canyons and isolated areas of Baja California are described by the late Randall Henderson, founder of *DESERT Magazine*. Although these are his personal adventures many years ago, little has changed and his vivid writing is alive today as it was when he first saw the oases. Paperback, illus., 72 pages, \$1.95.

**BYROADS OF BAJA** by Walt Wheelock. In addition to describing the many highways now being paved, this veteran Baja explorer also tells of back country roads leading to Indian ruins, missions, and abandoned mines. Paperback, illustrated, \$1.95.

**SHELLING IN THE SEA OF CORTEZ** by Paul E. Violette. The shelling techniques described here are applicable anywhere. With the guides included in this book, you will be led to the most probable locations of each particular type of shell. You will be told what to look for, the best times to search in relation to the tides, and how to preserve the specimens. Paperback, well illustrated, 96 pages, \$2.45.

**BEACHES OF BAJA** by Walt Wheelock. Beaches on the Pacific side of Lower California are described by the veteran Baja explorer. Unlike California beaches, they are still relatively free of crowds. Paperback, illustrated, 72 pages, \$1.95.

## Hiking

**UPHILL BOTH WAYS** by Robert L. Brown. A selective introduction to a wide variety of attractive trails in Colorado's Rockies. The hikes are divided into six groups, and each group is accompanied with a map. The hikes vary in difficulty, length and scenery from short easy walks to climbs of several 14,000-foot peaks. You will find yourself on roads to ghost mining towns, stagecoach roads, and old prospector trails. Paperback, profusely illustrated, 232 pages, \$4.95.

**SAN BERNARDINO MOUNTAIN TRAILS** by John W. Robinson. Easy one-day and more rugged hiking trips into the historic mountains. The 100 hiking trails are described in detail and illustrated so you will not get lost. Heavy paperback, 257 pages, \$5.95.

**TRAILS OF THE ANGELES, 100 Hikes in the San Gabriels**, by John W. Robinson. This is the most complete guide ever written to hiking and backpacking in California's San Gabriel Mountains. Hikes vary from easy one-hour strolls to all-day and overnight rambles. Tours of the Mt. Lowe Railway and Echo Mountain ruins. The author has walked, recorded and researched all trips, and has graded them as "easy," "moderate" or "strenuous." Excellent trail map. 256 pages, paperback, \$4.95.

**PACIFIC CREST TRAIL, Vol. 1: California**, by Thomas Winnett. Even if you are in good physical condition, just reading this detailed, informative book and planning to walk the PCT, you might sit back exhausted by the sheer prospects of such an adventure. How to hike the trail, appreciate, and DO it, have been outlined in the proper order. 145 pages with photography, plus 127 pages of topographic maps of the entire PCT route and alternate routes. Paperback, \$4.95.

# Mexico-Travel

**MEXICO'S WEST COAST BEACHES** by Al and Mildred Fischer. An up-to-date guide covering the El Golfo de Santa Clara to the end of the highway at Manzanillo. Excellent reference for the out-of-the-way beaches, in addition to the popular resorts such as Mazatlan and Puerto Vallarta. Although traveling by motorhome, the Fischers also give suggestions for air, auto, ferry and train travel as well. Paperback, well illustrated, 138 pages, \$3.00.

**MEXICO Guide** by Cliff Cross. All new, revised edition with excellent information of trailer parks, hotels, camping space; tips on border crossing, shopping, fishing, hunting, etc., as well as the history, culture, and geography. 210 maps, 675 photos, 195 pages, \$4.95.

**30,000 MILES IN MEXICO** by Nell Murbarger. Joyous adventures of a trip by pick-up camper made by two women from Tijuana to Guatemala. Folksy and entertaining, as well as instructive to others who might make the trip. Hardcover, 309 pages, \$6.00.

**BACK ROADS OF CALIFORNIA** by Earl Tholander and the Editors of Sunset Books. Early stagecoach routes, missions, remote canyons, old prospector cabins, mines, cemeteries, etc., are visited as the author travels and sketches the California Backroads. Through maps and notes, the traveler is invited to get off the freeways and see the rural and country lanes throughout the state. Paperback, large format, unusually beautiful illustrations, 207 pages, \$5.95.

**THE OREGON DESERT** by E.R. Jackman and R.A. Long. Filled with both facts and anecdotes, this is the only book on the little but fascinating deserts of Oregon. Anyone who reads this book will want to visit the areas — or wish they could. Hardcover, illustrated, 407 pages, \$9.95.

**HAPPY WANDERER TRIPS** by Slim Barnard. Well-known TV stars, Henrietta and Slim Barnard have put together a section of their trips throughout the West from their Happy Wanderer travel shows. Books have excellent maps, history, cost of lodging, meals, etc. Perfect for families planning weekends. Both books are large format, heavy paperback, 150 pages each and \$2.95 each. Volume One covers California and Volume Two Arizona, Nevada and Mexico. **WHEN ORDERING STATE WHICH VOLUME.**

**ADVENTURES IN THE REDWOODS** by Harriett E. Weaver. The fascinating story of the giant redwood is told by Harriett E. Weaver, whose career as California's first woman park ranger was spent among these living skyscrapers. A detailed guide to all major redwood groves in both the coastal and Sierra regions is included. Beautifully illus., paperback, \$2.95.

**GOLD RUSH COUNTRY** by the Editors of Sunset Books. A revised and up-dated practical guide to California's Mother Lode country. Divided into geographical areas for easy weekend trips, the 8 x 11 heavy paperback new edition is profusely illustrated with photos and maps. Special features and anecdotes of historical and present day activities. Four-color cover, 96 pages, \$2.95.

**GRAND CANYON JEEP TRAILS I** by Roger Mitchell. Eight interesting trips on the forgotten Shivwits Plateau on the Northwest rim of the Grand Canyon are described. A rating system is included to determine how rough a road is before you try it. Much of the material in this book is original research, never having appeared in print before. Paperback, amply illustrated with maps and photos, \$1.50.

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**EARTHQUAKE COUNTRY** by Robert Jacopl. New, revised edition brings maps and descriptive text up to date as nearly as practicable. Well illustrated, the book separates fact from fiction and shows where faults are located, what to do in the event of an earthquake, past history and what to expect in the future. Large format, slick paperback, 160 pages, revised edition is now \$3.95.

**DESERT VACATIONS ARE FUN** by Robert Needham. A complete, factual and interesting handbook for the desert camper. Valuable information on weather conditions, desert vehicles, campsites, food and water requirements. Information on desert wildlife, mines, ghost towns, and desert hobbies. Paperback, illustrated, 10 maps, 134 pages, \$3.95.

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**SUCCESSFUL COIN HUNTING** by Charles L. Garrett. An informative study of coin hunting, this is a complete guide on where to search, metal detector selection and use, digging tools and accessories, how to dig and the care and handling of coins. A classic book in the field. 181 pages, paperback, \$5.00.

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**WHERE TO FIND GOLD IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA** by James Klein. Pinpoints areas around the Los Angeles basin such as San Gabriel Canyon, Lytle Creek and Orange County. Tips on how to find gold, equipment needed and how to stake a claim are included as well as the lost treasure tales of each area. Paperback, illustrated, 95 pages, \$4.95.

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**CALIFORNIA GOLD CAMPS, A Geographical and Historical Dictionary of Camps, Towns and Localities Where Gold Was Found and Mined, and of Wayside Stations and Trading Centers,** by Erwin G. Gudde. Includes 7 excellent maps, in addition to a List of Places by County, a Glossary and Bibliography. Highly recommended. Hardcover, 467 pages, \$19.95.

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**NEVADA GHOST TOWNS AND MINING CAMPS** by Stanley W. Paher. Covering all of Nevada's 17 counties, Paher has documented 575 mining camps, many of which have been erased from the earth. The book contains the greatest and most complete collection of historic photographs of Nevada ever published. This, coupled with his excellent writing and map, creates a book of lasting value. Large format, 700 photographs, hardcover, 492 pages, \$17.50.

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**GHOST TOWNS OF THE WEST** by Lambert Florin. This popular hard-back series is now available in paperback volumes. Rearranged state by state, lavishly illustrated, handy to take along while traveling. Please state which volume when ordering: **Arizona**-\$2.95; **California**-\$3.95; **Colorado/Utah**-\$2.95; **Nevada**-\$2.95; **Oregon**-\$2.95.

**COLORADO RIVER GHOST TOWNS** by Stanley W. Paher. The skeletal remains of abandoned mines and towns in the Cerbat mountains and other barren ranges in western Arizona along the Colorado River are visited by the author. Two editions available: the standard edition is a large format, paperback, lavishly illustrated with rare old photos, \$2.95; the second edition available is identical with the exception of an insert of 15 beautiful four-color reproductions of etchings by noted artist Roy Purcell. This edition sells for \$4.95. Please state which edition when ordering.

**GOLD RUSHES AND MINING CAMPS OF THE EARLY AMERICAN WEST** by Vardis Fisher and Opal Laurel Holmes. Few are better prepared than Vardis Fisher to write of the gold rushes and mining camps of the West. He brings together all the men and women, all the fascinating ingredients, all the violent contrasts which go to make up one of the most enthralling chapters in American history. 300 illustrations from photographs. Large format, hardcover, boxed, 466 pages, highly recommended, \$17.95.

**MINING CAMPS AND GHOST TOWNS, A History of Mining in Arizona** by Frank Love. Dramatic history of the mineral frontier as it affected one section of the vast American West, the Lower Colorado Region. Illustrated, hardcover, 192 pages, \$7.95.

**GHOST TOWNS OF THE COLORADO ROCKIES** by Robert L. Brown. Written by the author of *Jeep Trails to Colorado Ghost Towns*, this book deals with ghost towns accessible by passenger car. Gives directions and maps for finding towns along with historical backgrounds. Hardcover, 401 pages, \$9.95.

**GHOSTS OF THE GLORY TRAIL** by Nell Murbarger. A pioneer of the ghost town explorers and writers, Miss Murbarger's followers will be glad to know this book is still in print. First published in 1956, it now in its seventh edition. The fast-moving chronicle is a result of personal interviews of old-timers who are no longer here to tell their tales. Hardcover, illustrated, 291 pages, \$7.00.

**CALIFORNIA-NEVADA GHOST TOWN ATLAS and SOUTHWESTERN GHOST TOWN ATLAS** by Robert Neil Johnson. These atlases are excellent do-it-yourself guides to lead you back to scenes and places of the early West. Some photos and many detailed maps with legends and bright, detailed descriptions of what you will see; also mileage and highway designations. Heavy paperback, each contains 48 pages, each \$2.00.

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**GHOST TOWNS AND MINING CAMPS OF CALIFORNIA** by Remi Nadeau. An excellent book on California ghost towns. We recommend it highly. Paperback, \$4.95.

## Treasure Tales

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**LOST MINES & BURIED TREASURES ALONG THE OLD FRONTIER** by John D. Mitchell. The second of Mitchell's books on lost mines which was out-of-print for many years. Many of these appeared in *DESERT Magazine* years ago and these issues are no longer available. New readers will want to read these. Contains the original map first published with the book and the one pin-pointing the areas of lost mines. Mitchell's personal research and investigation has gone into the book. Hardcover, 240 pages, \$7.50.

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**BURIED TREASURE & LOST MINES**, by Frank Fish. One of the original treasure hunters provides data on 93 lost bonanzas, many of which he personally searched for. He died under mysterious circumstances in 1968 after leading an adventurous life. Illustrated with photos and maps. Paperback, 68 pages, \$2.00.

**DEAD MEN DO TELL TALES** by Lake Erie Schaefer. A sequel to *BURIED TREASURE & LOST MINES* by Frank Fish, the author knew Fish for many years and claims he was murdered. Her book adds other information on alleged lost bonanzas, plus reasons why she thinks Fish did not die a natural death as stated by the authorities. Paperback, illustrated, 80 pages, \$3.00.

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**RAILROADS OF NEVADA AND EASTERN CALIFORNIA VOL. II** by David F. Myrick. Just as Vol. I detailed the history of the Northern Roads, Vol. II expands the railroad history to the Southern Roads of Nevada. This volume also contains a useful Index to both volumes, and is a reliable and accurate travel guide today as the reader wanders among the ghost towns of the past. Lavishly illustrated with maps and old photos, large format, hardcover, \$15.00.

**THE COLORFUL BUTTERFIELD OVERLAND STAGE** by Richard Pourade and Marjorie Reed. With 21 stage coach paintings by Miss Reed, the text concentrates on the Fort Yuma to San Francisco run of the tough Butterfield route. Album format, heavy art paper, \$6.50.

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**HISTORICAL ATLAS OF CALIFORNIA** by Warren A. Beck and Ynez D. Haase. Extensive documentation and pertinent detail make this atlas a valuable aid to the student, scholar and everyone interested in the Golden State. 101 excellent maps present information on the major faults, early Spanish explorations, Mexican land grants, routes to gold fields, the Butterfield and Pony Express routes, CCC camps, World War II installations, etc. Hardcover, extensive index, highly recommended, \$9.95.

**HISTORICAL ATLAS OF NEW MEXICO** by Warren A. Beck and Ynez D. Haase. Geographical data, sites of prehistoric civilizations, events of history, first towns, stagecoach lines, historic trails, etc., are included in this comprehensive atlas. Excellent maps, index. Hardcover, highly recommended, \$5.95.



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**DESERT EDITOR** by J. Wilson McKenney. This is the story of Randall Henderson, founder of DESERT Magazine, who fulfilled a dream and who greatly enriched the lives of the people who love the West. Hardcover, illustrated with 188 pages, \$7.95.

**BROKEN STONES, The Case For Early Man In California** by Herbert L. Minshall. "The Broken Stones" peels back some of the story of man in America, back beyond the longest racial memory. Author Minshall pulls together all that has been learned or suggested by amateurs as well as experts, including his own discoveries. To them the broken stones are beginning to speak — and they speak of the presence of man on the American Continent many thousands of years before he shaped the first bow and arrow. Large format, beautifully illustrated, hardcover, \$16.50.

**17th CENTURY MISSIONS OF THE SOUTH-WEST** by Francis B. Parsons. The author reveals the fascinating history of the old churches, monuments and ruins of the Southwest that we see today. Well illustrated with photos of each mission. Paperback, \$2.95.

**ANZA CONQUERS THE DESERT** by Richard F. Pourade. The colonization of California in the 1770's received its greatest impetus with the opening of an overland route from northern Mexico. The man who opened it was Juan Bautista de Anza. This book is the story of his conquest of the Great Desert which for 200 years had impeded the northern advance of the Spanish Empire. The colonists who were led into California by Anza founded the presidio of San Francisco; other colonists who came over the road opened by Anza helped found the city of Los Angeles. Large format, hardcover, beautifully illustrated, 216 pages, \$12.50.

**JESSE JAMES WAS ONE OF HIS NAMES** by Del Schrader [with Jesse James III]. According to the author, Jesse James did not die as recorded in history, but lived to a ripe old age. This book details the lively escapades Jesse was supposed to be involved in following his attendance at "his own funeral." Interesting and exciting reading based on information supplied by Jesse James III, executor of his grandfather's will. Hardcover, illustrated with old photos, 296 pages, index, \$8.95.

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**LAS VEGAS [As It Began — As It Grew]** by Stanley W. Paher. Here is the first general history of early Las Vegas ever to be published. The author was born and raised there in what, to many is considered a town synonymous with lavish gambling and unabashed night life. Newcomers to the area, and even natives themselves will be surprised by the facts they did not know about their town. Western Americana book lovers will appreciate the usefulness of this book. You don't have to gamble on this one! Hardcover, large format, loaded with historical photos, 180 pages, \$12.50.

**THE SALTON SEA, Yesterday and Today** by Mildred deStanley. Includes geological history, photographs and maps, early exploration and development of the area up to the present. Paperback, 125 pages, \$1.75.

**CALIFORNIA PLACE NAMES** by Erwin G. Gudde. This book presents the story of thousands of geographical names of California, giving their dates, circumstances of naming, their origin and evolution, their connection with our national history and their relation to the California landscape. This third edition incorporates many new entries and extensive revisions to older entries. An important addition is the reference list of obsolete and variant names. Hardcover, 416 pages, \$15.75.

**NEVADA PLACE NAMES** by Helen S. Carlson. The sources of names can be amusing or tragic, whimsical or practical. In any case, the reader will find this book good reading as well as an invaluable reference tool. Hardcover, 282 pages, \$15.00.

**NEW MEXICO PLACE NAMES** edited by T.M. Pearce. Lists and gives a concise history of the places, towns, former sites, mountains, mesas, rivers, etc. in New Mexico, including those settled by the early Spaniards. Good for treasure hunters, bottle collectors and history buffs. Paperback, 187 pages with more than 5,000 names, \$2.95.

**ARIZONA PLACE NAMES** by Will C. Barnes, Revised and enlarged by Byrd H. Granger. Excellent reference book with maps, Biographical information and Index. Large format, hardcover, 519 pages, \$11.50.

**THE BRADSHAW TRAIL** by Francis J. Johnston. A lively, fast-moving narrative dealing with the men and events which opened California to American statehood. Rich in colorful and informative material, the book also contains a fine fold-out map of California's Riverside County depicting the Trail's actual path and many of the landmarks along it. Paperback, 215 pages, \$6.00.

**RAILROADS OF ARIZONA VOL. I** by David F. Myrick. More than 30 railroads of Southern Arizona are presented, together with 542 nostalgic illustrations, 55 special maps and an Index. A valuable travel guide and a reliable historical reference. Large format, hardcover, 477 pages, \$19.50.

**OUR HISTORIC DESERT, The Story of the Anza-Borrego State Park.** Text by Diana Lindsay, Edited by Richard Pourade. The largest state park in the United States, this book presents a concise and cogent history of the things which have made this desert unique. The author details the geologic beginning and traces the history from Juan Bautista de Anza and early-day settlers, through to the existence today of the huge park. Hardcover, 144 pages, beautifully illustrated, \$10.50.

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# OTH AT VELVET



help." We were very impressed by their thoughtfulness and sincere interest in our welfare.

Another mile of travel brought us to the summit — a narrow ridge between peaks. Spread out far below was Granite Valley and a shimmering playa called "Adobe Flats." Dark, foreboding clouds hung over the Sahwawe and Blue Wing Mountains to the west. The storm clouds were much closer and heavier than when we had started the trip. But, since the sun still smiled on the Trinities, we felt no concern.

So many stops had been made along the way, a lunch break was now in order. To our north, a volcanic pillar projected from a rock-strewn hill and a faint trail headed in its direction. "Let's pull over there," Jerry suggested, "we can look around after lunch." We parked near the prominence — enjoyed our repast, then

*Left: Rich ore was never found at Velvet and less than a thousand ounces of gold and silver were produced. Prospects, a mine shaft and camp ruins, are all that remain. Below: There are many single nodules at the base of Summit Peak, but the majority coalesce into large masses with opal centers.*

hiked around its western base. The talus slope dropped off rapidly and the footing was mighty loose.

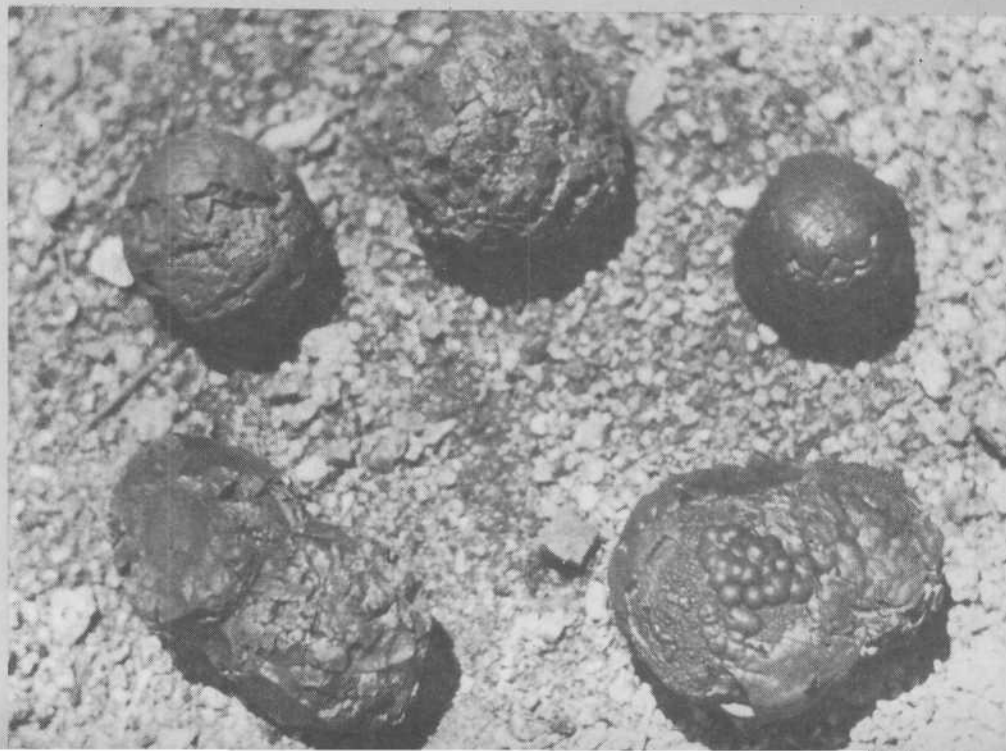
Very shortly we found ourselves walking over a bed of nodules. They ranged from walnut- to baseball-size. Their exteriors were "warty" and of tan to brown color. Some of the nodules were loose but the majority coalesce into large masses. Many of the solidified groups contained opal centers — not "fire" but darn close to it. It is entirely possible that fire opal may occur in an occasional nodule but we were not lucky enough to find one.

Hiking around the north side of the peak, we hit the jackpot — chunks of beautiful jasp-agate. It was vein material which had been shattered in situ and was now being exposed by erosion. Specimens ranged from small pieces to several pound chunks. Jerry noted a small, colorful knob protruding from the talus and proceeded to dig out our best find — a six-pound, two and a half-inch thick slab.

The quality of the material is very good. Coloring is terrific — both brilliant and subdued — splotchy and plumey. Colors include bright orange, red and yellow, as well as softer shades of tangerine, green, brown, white and purple.

of a surprise to find ourselves facing two deputy sheriffs!

Cecil Coinger and "Rocky" Ging were on patrol. They were curious as to our destination and imparted considerable information about the region. Upon leaving, they advised us, "You folks call the station when you return this evening. It is a mighty rough trail to Velvet and the recent storm has probably played havoc with what trails are left. If you don't report in, we will know you need







*Summit Peak in the Trinity Range provides the collector with colorful jasp-agate and interesting nodules. Good material will be found on the talus slopes encircling the basaltic pillar.*

The latter adds interest to the varying patterns.

Once again, I am asking those of you who visit this locale to limit yourselves to a few choice pieces. The supply is limited. Jerry and I have accepted as our creed "take only a little and leave a lot for others." Through this article we are "sharing with you" and hope you, too, will share with others. Keep in mind, the Bureau of Land Management permits "collecting only in reasonable amounts." If we do not observe their

rules, our collecting privileges can quickly be stopped.

An icy, brisk wind had sprung up while we were in the collecting area. The shelter of the car and a hot cup of coffee were welcomed. "Shall we explore further or visit the ghost camp of Velvet?" Jerry queried. "It is too darn cold to hike around now. I would rather see Velvet," was my reply.

Our route led down a narrow canyon on the western side of the pass. Across the canyon to the north, some intricate

rock work came into view. It was extensive and we stopped to speculate on its purpose. Obviously, it wasn't an old road, nor did it appear to have been associated with any buildings. We were fascinated and curious. "Wish we had seen this rock work before we talked with Cecil and Rocky," Jerry remarked. "They may have been able to shed some light on its origin."

We continued downslope about a mile and came to a little oasis of green shrubs, cattails and a watering trough. There was evidence of some mining and small, but colorful specimens of jasp-agate were scattered about. This was different material from what we had found at the summit. Lucky as always, Jerry promptly picked up a perfect bird-point and several broken arrowheads. They gave evidence that Indians had roamed the region in earlier days.

Two miles west of the watering trough, we saw faint tracks on the north bank above the wash. We turned right and drive up on the slope. Ahead, a dim trail headed north across the alluvial fans at the base of the Trinity Range. It had seen little use in recent years. Brush had overgrown the tracks and water from numerous heavy storms had cut gulleys and deposited rocks of all sizes along the old tracks. If this was the road to Velvet, it would not be smooth sailing.

The next four miles of travel was mighty slow going as we picked our way over large rocks, through gullies and sandy stretches, then up and around sections of trail made impassable by wash-outs. It was four-wheel-drive country to test a driver's skill. Not dangerous, but there was adequate opportunity to ruin tires, hang up or get stuck.

It was decision time when we junctioned with a road coming in from the northwest. Should we turn right or left?

*On the western side of the pass, Lowry's well provides an "oasis" for wild birds and animals, as well as cattle. Small pieces of attractive jasp-agate, different from the material at Summit Peak, are found scattered about the area.*



We also faced another problem — the weather.

Storm clouds, which had seemed so far away earlier, were now gathering over the Trinities. A few drops of rain fell as we discussed which trail to follow. It was late November and the temperature was rapidly dropping. At our elevation of over 6,000 feet, precipitation would soon turn to snow. As the navigator for our team, I told Jerry, "I feel sure Velvet is on the north slope of Trinity Peak. It can't be more than two miles from here."

I next made a suggestion which was unprecedented for me. "Let's turn right and follow the wash into the canyon. It shouldn't snow too heavily for awhile." I never like to be out in the back-country, on a mountain trail in a snow storm. Perhaps this is because we are snowed-in regularly at home. At home I love it. In a vehicle — miles from nowhere — no thanks. However, I just had to see Velvet!

Jerry was willing. He never worries about such things. In about a mile, the trail made a short, steep climb out of the

wash and led us into an amphitheater in the mountains. Here, we found the first rock ruins of the old mining camp of Velvet. Driving on, we soon could see dozens of prospects riddling the mountainside. During two periods of activity — 1911 to 1919 and the 1930's — there had really been a valiant effort to locate rich ore. "All had not been smooth at Velvet," since the total recorded production was between 10 and 1,000 ounces of both gold and silver.

Native gold occurred here in sugary quartz veins in Tertiary volcanics. Other vein minerals included silver, pyrite, stibnite, chalcopryite and proustite. "I wonder why they called it Velvet?" I asked Jerry. He thought the ore might have been mammillary or soft like velvet.

We followed the sadly deteriorating road to its end and found the remains of a primitive frame cabin. Piles of rusty cans in the wash indicated a lengthy occupancy. There was also an open shaft and several fair-sized dumps.

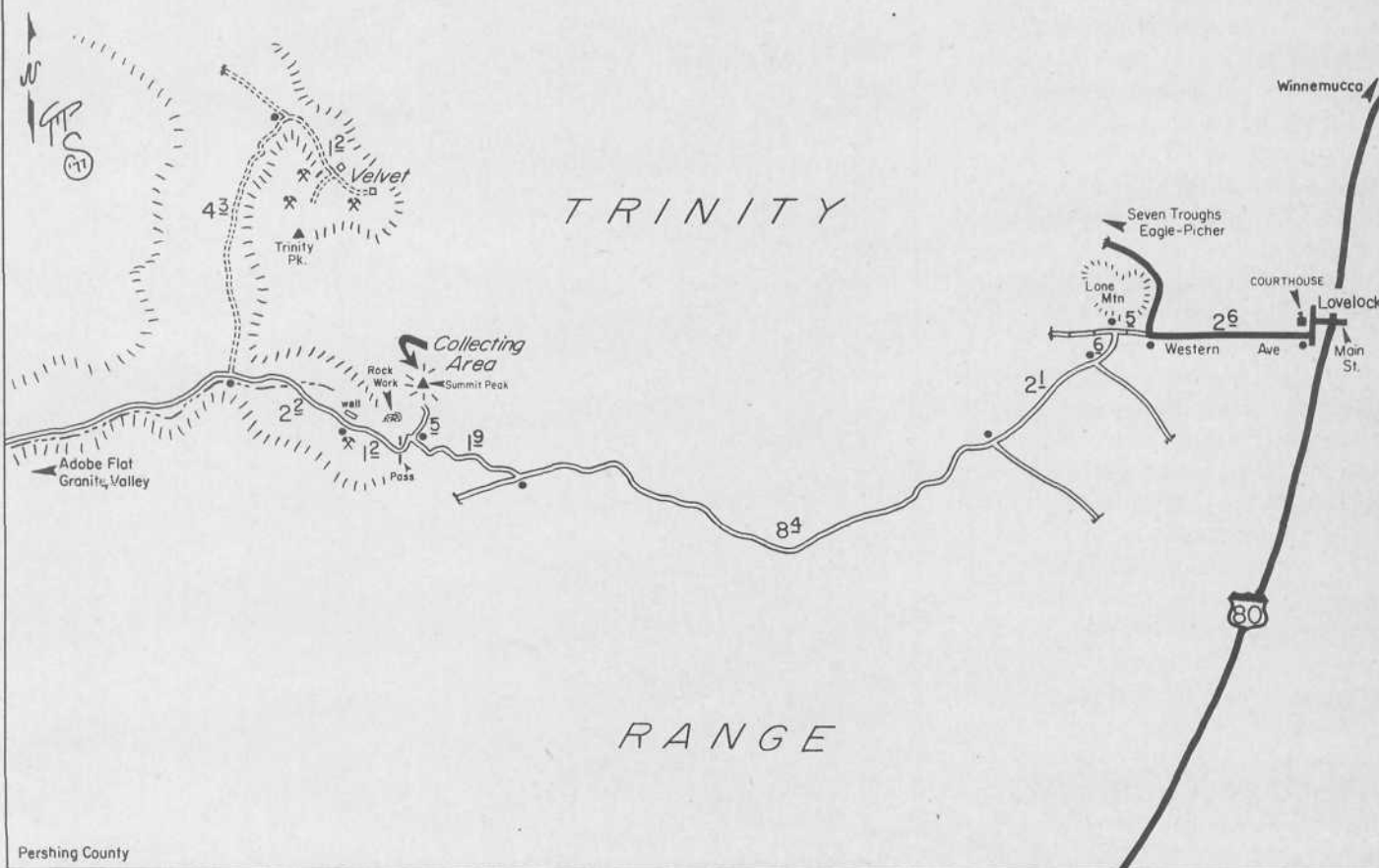
The sky had now darkened considerably and Jerry advised, "I won't guarantee how photos will turn out but I'll do

my best." While he was taking photos, a small break in the clouds occurred over Trinity Peak and the sun shone on it for a moment. I had been watching the sky, hoping for a break, and gasped in amazement. "What's the matter?" Jerry called. "Look — look at the peak," I cried. The light was reflecting on a sizable dark area under the peak. It was emerald green and looked like folded velvet!

Now we knew the origin of the camp's name. The north side of Trinity Peak receives very little sunlight and, consequently, supports a large field of green lichen. Our view only lasted a minute or two and, as the clouds closed in, snowflakes began to fall.

It was dark by the time we returned to Lovelock. A light rain was still falling the next morning and clouds obscured Trinity Peak as we headed south. The trails we had followed proved while "all was not smooth at Velvet," the district offers outdoor enthusiasts a field of beautiful cutting material, a little-known ghost camp and a vast, pristine land to explore. □

## Velvet, Nevada



Pershing County



**N**O NAME WASH was the route of a main Indian trade and migration trail through this country, used in historic and prehistoric times. It also plays an important part in another golden Picacho tale — one of the most intriguing of them all.

Christmas 1948, when Ed Rochester lived at Picacho, he wrote to us: "I've been spending considerable time exploring the Cargo Muchacho mesa. I'm on the hot trail of several cowhides full of gold. Gold disposed of by Indians after killing the Spaniards. First thing is to find the location of a spring which dried up some 50 years ago. Searching for the gold starts after the spring is found."

Ed was after one of the oldest and most tenuous legends of that legend-haunted land — the Badger Hole Gold.

Late in 1780, Spanish soldiers, missionaries and colonists set up two mission-pueblos on the California side of the Colorado River — one at Fort Yuma hill, the other upriver near present Laguna Dam. On July 17, 1781, the Yuma, or Quechan, Indians killed all four priests — including famed Padre Francisco Garcés — and most of the soldiers and male settlers. The settlements were abandoned and never reestablished.

The legend is that while these mission-pueblos still existed on the Colorado, a mule train loaded with gold from the Cargo Muchachos was ambushed as it came down the trail through No Name Wash. At what Ed called "the narrows," 10 miles or so northwest of the settlement near Laguna Dam, the Yumas killed the Spaniards conducting the train. The mules, presumably, they ate. The gold they threw into a handy badger hole and covered over. Ed's best guess as to the possible location of this opulent badger hole was an area on No Name Wash about two miles southeasterly from the point where the Picacho road reaches Pebble Mountain.

Although I have learned a little more since then, this is about the outline of the Badger Hole Gold that I gave in *Desert* 26 years ago. At Ed's request, however, I did not identify No Name Wash or specify the area where he was then hunting the gold.

# Badger Hole Gold

by HAROLD O. WEIGHT

*Below: Earl Kerr at one of the rock mounds said to be a collapsed primitive ore furnace. Right: Many a search for lost mines started from the "Mayor's Office," in Picacho. Left to right: "Mayor" Ed Rochester, Earl Kerr, Charlie Curtis. Badger hide on wall, upper right, did not come from the golden badger hole. Below right: Picacho country is threaded with Indian trails. Ed Rochester stands above one near Pebble Mountain*





Ed learned the story of the Badger Hole Gold from an old Yuman who died in the mid-1940s. He was supposed to have been a descendant of one of the ambushers. Ed was so convinced that there was some basis to the story that I am sure the old man told him more than he passed on to me. What part, for example, did that dried up spring play in the story? Why was Ed so certain that the mule train cargo was "melted out" gold, or gold bullion, rather than the placer that would be more reasonable for that brief early mining period?

Since all the men of the pack train are supposed to have been massacred, it is only through the Yumans themselves that the story, if factual, could have been preserved. And this is a sort of evidence that it might have some validity. The Yumans certainly did not encourage goldseekers, and would have had no reason to invent it. And although no official account of the Colorado River settlements I have ever seen mentions the discovery of gold, the gold was there right in the river gravels where the upper pueblo was established. Gold was there in the Cargo Muchachos. It seems incredible that Spaniards would not have found it.

I agree with a number of mining experts that they did. In his *Historical Sketch of Gold and Silver Mining on the Pacific Slope*, 1866, J. Ross Browne wrote: "Small deposits of placer gold were found by the Mexicans near the Colorado River at various times from 1775 to 1828." In his 1869 *Report on the Precious Metals*, William P. Blake said: "Gold was known to exist along the Colorado River as early as 1775."

And a report on the Cargo Muchachos in a 1942 publication of the California Division of Mines, Paul C. Henshaw wrote: "With the establishment of a short-lived settlement from 1780 to 1781, mining was first carried on in the (Yuma) region. The rich placer deposits at the Potholes on the west bank of the Colorado River near the site of Laguna Dam were worked. At the same time mining activity extended to the Cargo Muchacho district, and centered around the placer grounds of Jackson Gulch and the rich oxidized ores of Madre Valley."

The Badger Hole Gold may seem short on substance, but it has been devoutly hunted. The most determined search, according to Ed, was made by a Fort

Yuma storekeeper, Paul Skinner, and an Indian, Lincoln Jackson, who apparently did not fear the Yuman gold taboo.

"Jackson was very sociable, for a Yuma," Ed said. "He told Skinner he knew where the gold was, pretty close. Skinner had a doodlebug—one of those mineral locators that dips. And Jackson had great faith that dreams would help him find the gold. They went up there and drew lines through various points. That indicated where they were supposed to dig. The doodlebug showed strong mineral indications. So they dug. I found a place on a point where a side wash comes into No Name where they had dug three deep holes.

"But they didn't find the gold?" I asked.

Ed laughed. "They said they didn't."

Ed at least found some gold while he was prospecting for badger holes along that old Indian trail. It had been raining that particular day, and his experienced eye sighted a small nugget apparently uncovered by the runoff. The ground was still wet, so Ed marked the spot, pocketed his find, and returned home.

When the ground was dry enough to work, he came back with a dry washer. Right in the trail, from the immediate area of his first discovery, he recovered two ounces of gold, mostly in small nuggets. That was all. Tests on all sides showed not the slightest additional values.

"I think that gold came from the Cargo Muchachos," Ed said as he showed me the little vial of nuggets and coarse grains. "Most likely some miner dropped his poke from his pocket or saddlebag as he rode the trail. It's deep dust lots of times, and it could have gone right out of sight or have been trampled under by the pack animals that followed."

Reasonable. But how long ago had that little bag fallen into the old trail? How many years or generations had passed before it rotted away and released the nuggets, and the slow placering of the rain brought them to the surface again? Ed was looking for lost Spanish gold. Maybe he found some—but two ounces instead of cowhides full.

Anyhow, so far as the records show, those two ounces of re-placered placer is the only lost gold ever recovered along any old Indian trail between the Cargo Muchachos and the potholes. □



# Corn Spring

by DICK BLOOMQUIST



*Petroglyphs at Corn Spring in the Chuckawalla Mountains.*

**A**FTER OUR Mojave sojourn at Twentynine Palms, Fortynine Palms, and Mopah Spring, we return once again to the Colorado Desert. Corn Spring in the Chuckawalla Mountains lies over 50 miles southwest of Mopah as the crow flies. In former times an Indian trail probably linked these two waterholes. Petroglyphs abound at Corn Spring and fragments of old trails are intact near both oases. More recently burro man August (Gus) Lederer, "the Mayor of Corn Spring," lived under the palms

with his jacks and jennies. Today a small Bureau of Land Management campground borders the grove.

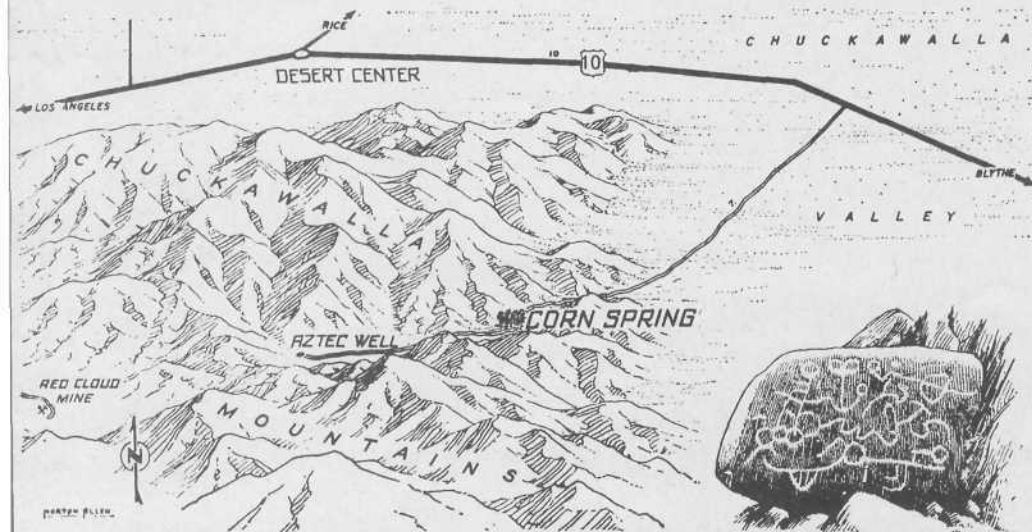
A graded dirt road leads to the oasis, located south of Interstate 10 near Desert Center. After working up the bajada for over five miles, it crosses Corn Springs Wash and enters the mountains. Seven miles from pavement the road reaches the palms and BLM campground, with its tables, stoves and pit toilets. Water no longer surfaces at the palms, but it may be obtained from an

old-fashioned pump.

Corn Spring oasis is an airy grove set a few feet above the nearby arroyo. Except for some saltbushes along the fringes, virtually no shrubbery grows in the little forest of wild palms and non-native tamarisks. Mesquite, palo verde, catsclaw, ironwood, smoke tree, desert willow and cheesebush abound in Corn Springs Wash, however, and cacti, creosote, ocotillo and many other species flourish on higher ground.

Fifty-seven veteran Washingtonias, a handful soaring over 50 feet, make up the heart of the grove. I also saw several youngsters with irrigation rings around them which have evidently been set out since the campground was constructed a few years ago. One small date palm lifts its distinctive pinnate fronds amid the more familiar fan-shaped leaves of the Washingtonias. Fire has touched almost all the older trees, leaving them with short skirts.

Corn Spring enjoys a secluded, yet rather open, setting within a pocket of the Chuckawalla Range. A few paces downstream, however, mountain ridges close in on opposite sides of the wash, providing smooth stone "tablets" for the



incised markings of the Indians. Symbols incised on rock surfaces are called petroglyphs; symbols painted on rock surfaces are called pictographs. There are wavy lines, curving lines one within the other, combinations of lines and circles. One figure suggests rays pouring downward from the sun, and others resemble the "stick men" drawn by children, but for the most part these glyphs say nothing to modern man, who sees only strange symbols and labyrinthine designs. The Rosetta stone of Indian rock writing has not been found.

A narrow but well-defined trail — perhaps of Indian origin — climbs the low mesa southwest of the oasis. Many aboriginal routes of travel must have radiated from Corn Spring. One almost surely headed northeasterly across the Chuckawalla Valley to McCoy Spring, 25 miles away at the foot of the McCoy Range. Several old pathways converge upon McCoy, another waterhole marked by numerous petroglyphs.

Corn Spring, whose waters gave Indian hands a reason to write on rock, was near the dividing line between the Cahilla lands on the west and Chemehuevi territory on the east, and I am unsure which tribe held sway here.

A plaque inlaid in rock amid the glyphs tells of prospector Gus Lederer, "Mayor" of the spring. Once a year or so Gus exchanged visits with Frank Coffey, another burro man who was "Mayor" of Dos Palmas, a palm oasis northeast of the Salton Sea. Lederer, who died in the early 1930's, is buried at Aztec Well a few miles up the arroyo.

Prospectors once combed this country, but apart from the Red Cloud Mine several miles to the west they found little of value. "Mayor" Gus Lederer and all the other burro men have departed now, leaving Corn Spring to a new generation of desert explorers. ☐

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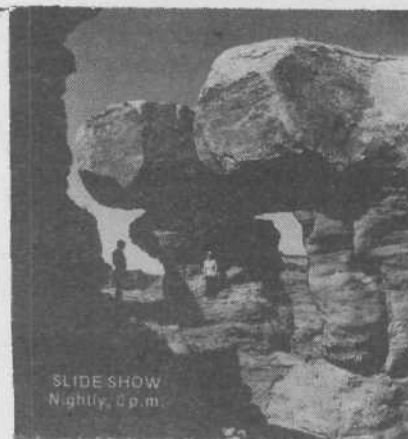
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# Almost Forgotten Truckhaven Trail

## “DOC” BEATY’S HISTORIC HIGHWAY DISAPPEARING

by BILL JENNINGS

**T**HE YEAR of the stock market crash was memorable for a lot of reasons. Some say the country has never been the same, but some others recall that A.A. “Doc” Beaty’s new road — the Truckhaven Trail — helped to open the Borrego Valley, and certainly it’s never been the same.

The old one-lane road, meandering in and out of deep washes, over rocky barrancas, all hand-carved with the aid of a mule-drawn fresno scraper, was completed that year and traces of it are getting harder to find with each passing year.

Only at its far eastern end, heading southwesterly from the old Truckhaven service station site on what is now California State Highway 86, to the Arroyo Salada primitive campsite in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, is the old road still usable. In fact it’s a viable, even welcome, alternative to the paved Borrego-Salton Sea Way that parallels it to the north. The two-county highway cuts straight through the washes and terraces, giving the motorist a shortcut but no real comprehension of the rugged beauty he is passing through at 55 miles an hour.

Some of the Sea Way, which predictably has been shortened to the inaccurate and misleading title “seaway” on road signs, lays on top of the old trail, but only across the high ground. The deep washes that destroyed the Beaty trail as soon as it was completed are crossed by the two-county highway on high cuts and fills. Which is sort of a shame for off-highway travel fans, or maybe not. Certainly they find little competition on the narrow, steep-graded remaining portions of the Beaty route.

The old trail was conceived, designed and mainly built by Borrego’s one-man gang, a Texas born horseman and farmer who wanted other people to share the wonderland he found in 1913, as one of the first and most enduring of all Borrego Valley homesteaders.

According to Doc’s only child, Mrs. Fleta McCandless, now of Indio, California, he had journeyed west to Azusa from Waco, Texas, as a youth, casting about for his fortune as many another Texan in the depressed times after the Civil War. Doc knocked around, made a reputation as a good bronc peeler in several rodeos and by 1900 had opened his own livery stable in the little boom town at the foot of the San Gabriel Mountains.

In the interim, he had worked in gold and silver mines around Tonopah and Goldfield and the huge copper strike at Bisbee. Mrs. McCandless said she did not know if he had been a true pros-

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*“Doc” Beaty helped open the Borrego Valley to tourism. Thousands visit the desert playground to view the wildflowers in the spring. Photo by Ernie Cowan of Escondido, California.*

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Seventeen Palms, one of the way stops on the original routing of the Truckhaven Trail. Arroyo Salada provided a natural route to the oasis over the 1929-vintage trail but also caused periodic flooding that washed out the road even before it was finished.

she was only six.

Whatever year, it was important for the valley because Beaty soon proved to be a prime mover in more ways than one. The family homesteaded a 160-acre quarter-section immediately south of what is now the Borrego Springs airport but ran into problems. The land was alkali, a hand-dug well only adequate for household use and a few new members, barnyard animals. Beaty eked out a living chopping and hauling mesquite which he had to haul more than 40 miles — 2½ days — to Brawley. They lived in a tent and had no crops worth the name, Mrs. McCandless said.

Within two years Beaty followed the source of floodwaters up to the mouth of Coyote Canyon where he claimed 320 acres on a desert entry, which differed from a true homestead mainly in that he could receive twice the acreage and the legal process of "proving up" was easier.

His partner in the new venture was Frank Beal of Brawley who was convinced of the isolated valley's promise by the transplanted Texan, the first recipient of Beaty's famous salesmanship. If there was one thing that Beaty did better than hard work out in the desert sun, it was talk, his longtime associates recall.

pector, but the odds are good he tried his hand here and there between mining jobs. This phase of Doc's long, colorful history is unknown.

It is known he earned his lifelong nickname in peculiar fashion. His daughter recalled it came from the name of a Texas doctor. Another source, now unidentified, said it was two doctors, one named Alfred, the other, Alexander, but nobody around early Borrego ever called him anything but Doc, so what matters?

Beaty, his wife and their six-year-old daughter rode into Borrego in an old spring wagon, its tailgate sagging under the weight of their total belongings, covered by a canvas top that gave the

conveyance the look of a covered wagon, Mrs. McCandless recalls.

The route was typically Beaty, the hard and long way around, including Bautista Canyon between Hemet and Anza, then down into Aguanga, southeasterly along the old Butterfield Stage road to Warner Ranch and into the desert through Grapevine Canyon, still a usable and highly-scenic off-road route through the state park from Yaqui Well to Warner's.

It was 1913, Mrs. McCandless recalls, but other sources indicate the Beatys came a few years earlier. She said she had started to school in Long Beach before the family moved to the desert and



*Descending from the east into Arroyo Salada on the eastern boundary of the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, this section of the Truckhaven Trail is near Beaty's Icebox where workers stored perishable foods during construction days.*

But, unlike some proverbial Texans, he proved what he said.

The new ranch, blessed with unlimited water from Coyote Creek, provided regular cuttings of alfalfa from a 40-acre tract. Beaty watered it with a hand-dug ditch, portions of which could still be seen in recent years.

He hauled the hay down to Brawley over a round-about route through the old Borego (with one "r") Sink, past Barrel Spring and to the new Imperial-San Diego counties road from Julian to Kane Spring. Overnight camps were made at Barrel Spring, just north of present-day Ocotillo, and at Harper's Well, near San Felipe Wash. On one such trip Beaty found a hand-wrought silver crucifix in the Spanish style thought to date to the Anza expedition of 1774. It is now owned by his grandson, Al McCandless, Riverside County supervisor from the Coachella and Palo Verde valleys.

Mrs. Beaty and the daughter lived much of the year in Brawley. For one thing, there was no school in Borrego and no other small children, so life was lonely.

"My father raised me like a boy and it was a fascinating time," Mrs. McCandless said. "Sometimes we went up Coyote Canyon to get our mail at Anza, another two and one-half day ride and there would be other children to play with on the old Fred Clark ranch at the head of the Turkey Track. We used to camp at Middle Willows and George Bender's old ranch above Nancy Canyon."

Because of Fleta's isolation — and

A. A. "Doc" Beaty, roadbuilder, promoter and pioneering homesteader of the Borrego Valley, stands on Font's Point more than 40 years ago, one of the most scenic highpoints of the historic region he loved so well.



probably because he got lonely while his wife and daughter sojourned at far-distant Brawley, Beaty managed to get Borrego's first school started, near the old Duvall store. By this time there were other permanent residents as well.

Beaty also scratched a little cash in-

come by doing the assessment work on other homesteads and filling out his time working on the rudimentary road to the south of the valley. In between times, he functioned as a dude ranger for the few visitors who found their way to Borrego.

*Continued on Page 42*

Construction of the Truckhaven Trail, mainly accomplished with pick and shovel, mule-team and Fresno scraper, also drew some modern equipment, witness this overturned "cat" tractor in Arroyo Salada. Picture from the collection of Mrs. Fleta McCandless.







Showy yellow flower and unopened flower bud of unicorn plant. Note the dense covering of gland-tipped hairs which provide insulation against the intense sunlight and hot dry winds of late summer.

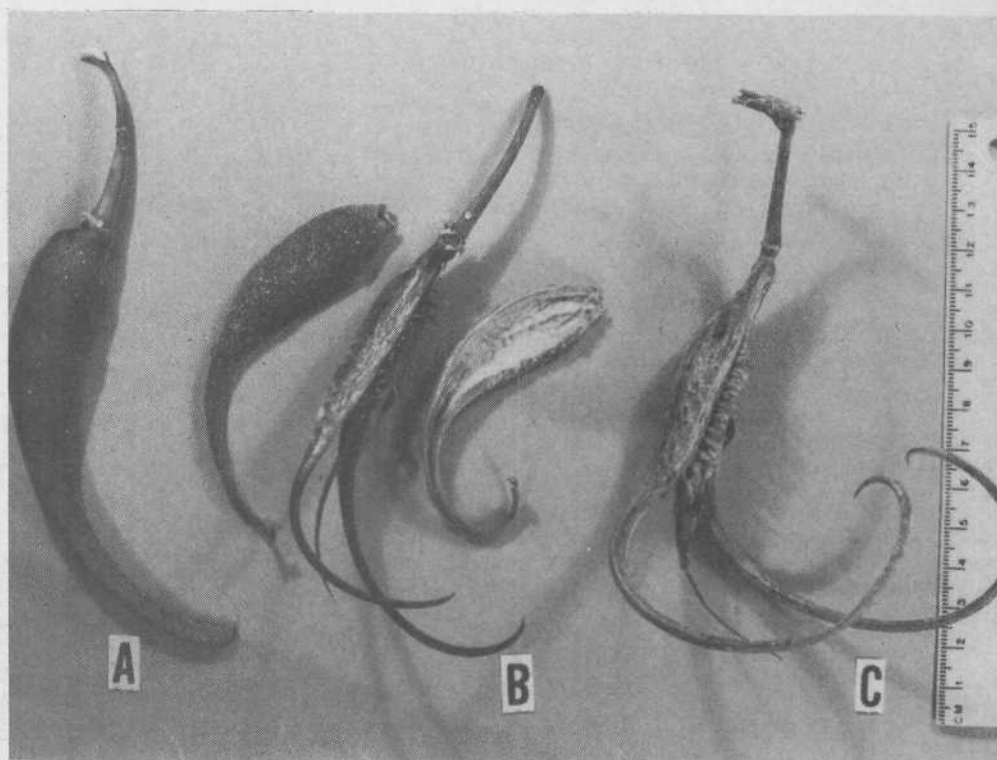
Habit view of unicorn plant showing leaves and unopened pods.

# DESERT UNICORN

by W. P. ARMSTRONG

**H**AVE YOU ever wandered along a sandy desert wash and found a strange woody structure with a crested body and two prominent, divergent, curved spines? If so, you were lucky enough to stumble across the unicorn plant or devil's claw. Actually, this dried, woody structure is the remains of a seed pod, or in more technical botanical terms, a capsule.

The desert unicorn plant is a sprawling herbaceous perennial with sticky, pubescent (hairy) stems and rounded or shallow-lobed leaves about three to seven cm. wide. There are several species native and naturalized in the southwestern United States and Mexico, but the one you would most likely find in California's Anza-Borrego Desert is *Proboscidea altheaefolia* (also spelled *Altheaefolia* and *altheifolia*). They belong to the Martynia Family (Martyniaceae), a small New World family closely related to the Bignonia Family (Bignoniaceae). In fact, the flowers are remarkably similar in general appearance to some members of the latter family, such as *Catalpa*, *Jacaranda*, and desert willow



Stages in formation of peculiar dried unicorn capsule. A. Green pod before splitting open. B. Two outer fleshy halves separated—exposing the inner woody body and beak. The beak is beginning to split apart. C. Woody inner portion when completely dry. Note the crest along the top and two curved prongs.





(*Chilopsis linearis*). The generic name *Proboscidea* (proh-bo-sid-ee-ah) is from the Greek word *proboscis* (beak), referring to the fruit or capsule. The specific epithet (species name) *althaeifolia* (al-thee-if-foh-lee-ah) refers to the leaves of *Althea* or hollyhock, which it resembles superficially.

Desert unicorn plant produces showy, yellowish flowers in late summer or early fall (at least in San Diego County) followed by fruits or seed pods in fall that look something like a large green bean pod with a tapered, curved end. This long tapered beak explains the derivation of the generic name *Proboscidea* and the common name of unicorn plant—in reference to the famous mythical horselike animal. However, in the Old Testament (Deuteronomy 33: 17), unicorn refers to a two-horned, oxlike animal, and this would apply to the dried two-pronged pods. One reference uses the name “elephant tusks” which I think is more de-

scriptive! When the greenish pod has attained its full length, the two outer fleshy halves (husks) split apart like the halves of a bean pod. The curved, inner woody beak also splits apart releasing the seeds and forming the peculiar two-pronged structure. Some botanists say that these prongs may attach to clothing and fur and may aid in seed dispersal. Apparently the fetlocks of burros and sheep are especially well-suited for these hitchhiking fruits.

At least one species of unicorn plant is grown as both an ornamental and a vegetable. The soft, immature fruits (which resemble okra) are pickled, either alone or mixed with other vegetables. They may also be boiled and eaten. The seeds are apparently planted in well-spaced hills, as in cucumbers and squash. Young pods are sometimes eaten by Indians in Arizona as a vegetable, and the mature fruits are gathered by the Pima and Papago Indians, who use them in

weaving designs into basketry. The dark fibers of the woody capsule are used to make black patterns in their baskets.

Desert unicorn plants occur occasionally in sandy areas of the creosote bush scrub, from San Diego and Imperial Counties to western Arizona, and southward into Sinaloa, Mexico and southern Baja California. In San Diego County this little plant is actually quite local in distribution. It has been reported from the Bow Willow and Vallecitos areas of Anza-Borrego Desert. I have also seen it growing along the alluvial slopes near the little community of Canebrake.

The unique dried pods are eagerly sought after by collectors. I have even seen them painted like strange little animals and for sale in desert curio shops! If you are lucky enough to find these amazing plants, enjoy them, but please leave the pods so that they may reseed themselves and perpetuate the species. □



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*This well-graded section of the 1929-era Truckhaven Trail still draws intermittent travel near the Imperial-San Diego counties boundary west of Salton City. Trail has been bypassed by the paved Borrego-Salton Seaway to the north.*

### TRUCKHAVEN TRAIL

*Continued from Page 39*

He conducted horseback and buggy tours.

Beaty, with other early-day settlers, realized the valley's great double potential — tourism and agriculture — could never be realized without more direct access roads. The Truckhaven Trail was one result.

Beaty sought public help in a direct way. He rode to Coachella, then the nearest town of any size in the Coachella Valley, secured subscriptions of cash and equipment from merchants there, and began construction of a one-lane road to Truckhaven station, then one of the few gas and oil oases from Coachella south to Westmorland and Brawley along the new State Highway 99. The station burned a few years ago, ironically just after being modernized. The site is still marked by a sign, some outbuildings and bedraggled tamarisk trees. Across the highway, the old trail has been almost obliterated by construction of new roads in Salton City, a resort community that sprang up after World War II.

Developers paid tribute to the early-day crew however, naming one street Truckhaven Trail and for a time that name also stuck with the new highway up the alluvial fan toward Borrego Valley.

When dedicated in May, 1968, however, the new road was official named Borrego-Salton Sea Way and had cost an estimated \$300,000. Comparatively, Beaty and his volunteers had spent far less than \$5,000 for the original route, mainly because nobody took any wages and the mule feed came from Beaty's Rancho de Anza at the mouth of Coyote Canyon.

Some old photographs, supplied jointly by Mrs. McCandless and the *Borrego Sun* semi-monthly newspaper, indicate a small Caterpillar tractor, possibly a Model 15, was used briefly. It is shown overturned down a steep hill presumably near Arroyo Salada, near the Imperial-San Diego County line.

The tractor and some of the other equipment probably came from the Ensign Ranch, the first modern-style agricultural enterprise in the valley. Tommy Davis, longtime resident manager for that irrigated date garden, had been one of Beaty's most enthusiastic volunteers, along with Harry Wood, early-day de-

*In contrast to many desert oases where native palms are dying out, Four Palms, adjacent to the old Truckhaven Trail in Imperial County, is gaining, as witness this photo showing five palms in view. Several others are nearby.*

veloper, Glen Duvall, still living in San Diego, and several others.

Beaty's sister, Sarah, and Hazel McGinnis, wife of homesteader Lloyd McGinnis, another volunteer, did most of the cooking. Perishable supplies, such as they were, were stored in a cave off Arroyo Salada known until recent years as Beaty's Icebox and marked by a state park sign. The cave was destroyed in floods of recent years, park officials say.

Before the new road, which stretched nearly 30 miles from Borrego to Truckhaven, could be opened officially in the late fall of 1929, it was closed by a series of cloudburst floods in several of the canyons. Beaty and his crew struggled repeatedly to keep the road open, or rather merely passable for the two-ton produce trucks of the day, but the road never really served as a reliable shortcut.

Present-day State Highway 78 was completed in the mid-1930s so the need for the Truckhaven Trail was eased. Off-roaders who began to visit the new state park area just before World War II found the remnants of the ill-fated trail a useful shortcut between washes and many of the early visitors to Seventeen Palms used the Truckhaven Trail.

Because of flooding problems, Beaty had rerouted the trail many times and one of the alternate routes was by way of Seventeen Palms, just down stream from Arroyo Salada.

The west-end routing, past the airport and the Peg Leg monument, erected originally by Beaty and some of his cronies, was more heavily used by park patrolmen and visitors. The paved road follows this portion of the trail most faithfully from the airport, skirting the south end of Clark Lake and onto Arroyo Salada. So in one sense the Truckhaven Trail still lives — in the sub-base and grade for the modern highway.

The park has preserved about two miles of the road at the east end, where the old trail climbs past Four Palms oasis, up the Calcite Mine wash and crosses the county line near the tele-



phone repeater tower. Across the highway a brown and yellow post denotes the official remains of the Truckhaven, which meanders across a terrace into Arroyo Salada.

One of the ironies of life, of course, is the way history has of erasing the modest imprint of some of our most innovative pioneers. This is the current fate of Beaty, roadbuilder, pioneer rancher, schoolman and a co-founder of the Peg Leg Smith Liars Contest.

Nowhere in the official history of Borrego Valley, if there is one, or on the map of the state park, does his name appear. His old ranch has been converted to a horseman's camp by the park, and when a name for that homestead does appear it usually takes the name of a later-day owner, not Beaty who owned it until 1930.

Next spring, the promoters of the revived Desert Rat Liar's Contest plan to improve the history books to a minor degree, by dedicating the event to Beaty, with his daughter as a special guest. □

#### ORNAMENTAL

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# Letters to the Editor

Letters requesting answers must  
include stamped self-addressed envelope

## Old Copper World . . .

In reference to the "Old Copper World" article on Page 8 of your June, '77 issue by Mary Frances Strong, I drove up to the old mine in July and found that the owners are working the property. I talked to one of the operators and was informed that they are mining the gem stones and are selling to wholesale dealers only. The mine is *closed* to rock collectors. The operator told me that they are known as Parr Industries. Just thought I would let you know the area is being closed now.

ADOLPH G. ADLER,  
Palmdale, California.

## Ballarat No Junk Yard . . .

I would like to comment on a letter published a few issues back concerning the old town of Ballarat near Death Valley. (The writer termed it as a junk yard.)

My parents live at the Cal-Trans Maintenance Yard at Panamint Springs and while visiting them during Easter vacation this year I had a chance to meet Lil and Paul Jones, the owners of Ballarat. My three children were fascinated with Lil, who patiently answered their questions about rocks, let them load up pockets with various specimens and let them climb around on some ancient pieces of equipment.

What I would like to ask the person who wrote the letter is this: How many old buildings would still be standing today if Lil and Jonesy were not living there year around to protect them? How many people would be willing—let alone enjoy—to live in such a desolate and harsh place?

I think Lil and Jonesy are very special people and should be commended for protecting the old town. Anyone who has ever seen the rubble left after careless and thoughtless people have discovered an abandoned ghost town should appreciate what Ballarat is now. Next time you are there, stop and talk to Lil and Jonesy and my kids said not to forget to mention "Man"—the most beautiful *ugly* dog I've ever seen.

JANET M. WALKER,  
Simi Valley, California.

# Calendar of Events

OCTOBER 1 & 2, "Nature's Jewel Box," sponsored by the Napa Valley Rock and Gem Club, Inc., Napa Town and Country Fairgrounds, Main Exhibit Building, 575 Third St., Napa, Calif. Dealers, demonstrations. Donation 50 cents. Easy parking and camping facilities on the grounds. Chairman: Gerald Bradford, 2068 Sommer St., Napa, Calif. 94558.

OCTOBER 15 & 16, Lake Havasu City Gem and Mineral Society's 8th Annual Show, Lake Havasu Junior High School, 98 Swanson Ave., Lake Havasu City, Ariz. Dealers, guest displays, educational programs, field trips. Chairman: W. C. Reichel, P.O.Box 1366, Lake Havasu City, Arizona 86403.

OCTOBER 21-23, 5th Annual "Tucson Lapidary and Gem Show," sponsored by the Old Pueblo Lapidary Club, Tucson Community Center Exhibition Hall, 350 S. Church St., Tucson, Arizona. Dealer space sold. Chairman: Gene Davidson, P.O.Box 2163, Tucson, Arizona 85702.

OCTOBER 1 & 2, "Galaxy of Gems" sponsored by the Oxnard Gem and Mineral Society, Oxnard Community Center, 800 Hobson Way, Oxnard, Calif. Dealers and demonstrations. Admission, parking and camping free.

OCTOBER 1 & 2, Bisbee Mineral Show, National Guard Armory south of Bisbee, Arizona near the junction of Naco Highway and Highway 92. Admission, adults \$1.00, children free. Displays, dealers programs.

OCTOBER 1 & 2, Fourth Annual Julian Back Country Arts Festival, Julian United Methodist Church. Arts, crafts, music, needlework, homemade ice cream. Free admission.

OCTOBER 4 - 16, "Gem Rush of '77" sponsored by the Fresno Gem and Mineral Society, Inc., held in conjunction with the Fresno District Fair. Industrial Arts Building at Fairgrounds, East Kings Canyon Road and Chance Avenue in Fresno, Calif. Admission to Fair covers show.

OCTOBER 8, "Recreation in Rocks" sponsored by the Peninsula Gem and Geology Society, San Antonio Shopping Center, 2550 El Camino West, Mountain View, Calif. No dealers. Handmade jewelry and novelties. Cutting material.

OCTOBER 8 & 9, Hi-Desert Gem and Mineral Association's 6th Annual "Hi-Desert Gem-boree" sponsored by Yucca Valley Gem and Mineral Society, Joshua Tree Gem and Mineral Society, Hi Desert Rockhounds of Morongo Valley and Oasis Rock Club of 29 Palms. Show will be held at the Community Center, 57098 29 Palms Hwy., Yucca Valley, Calif.

Dealers, Games, Fashion Show, admission free, camping nearby available.

OCTOBER 8 & 9, "Earth's Treasures" sponsored by the Nevada County Gem and Mineral Society, National Guard Armory, Ridge Road and Nevada City Highway, Nevada City, California. Free admission.

OCTOBER 15 & 16, 28th Annual Gem Show sponsored by the Whittier Gem and Mineral Society, Palm Park, 5703 S. Palm Ave., Whittier, California. Free admission and parking. Choice gem minerals, displays.

OCTOBER 15 & 16, World-of-Rockhounds Association, Inc., fun weekend at the Security Mine near Boron, Calif., 2 miles east of Clay Mine Road on turnoff 5 miles north of Highway 58. Displays, field trips, auction.

OCTOBER 15 & 16, Fourth Annual Los Angeles County Antique Bottle and Collectible Show and Sale sponsored by the Hawthorne Chamber of Commerce, Hawthorne Memorial Center, 3901 El Segundo, Hawthorne, Calif.

OCTOBER 22 & 23, 37th Annual Show of the Los Angeles Lapidary Society "March of Gems" at the Brentwood Youth House, 731 South Bundy Drive, south of San Vicente. Dealers, exhibits, demonstrations.

OCTOBER 21 - 23, Fifth Annual Lapidary and Gem Show hosted by the Old Pueblo Lapidary Club, Tucson Community Center, 350 South Church Street, Tucson, Arizona. Special Displays.

OCTOBER 29 & 30, San Diego County Council of Gem and Mineral Societies 15th Annual Gem-boree, hosted by San Diego Mineral and Gem Society, Inc., at Al Bahr Shrine Temple, 5440 Kearny Mesa Rd., San Diego, Calif. Dealers, programs and special exhibits.

OCTOBER 29 & 30, Annual Gem-Fest Show sponsored by the Rockcrafters of the Lockheed Employees' Recreation Club, L.E.R.C. Building, 2814 Empire, Burbank, California. Hobby-related displays, working demonstrations, dealers, tailgaters and Club-sponsored sales and food booths.

NOVEMBER 5 & 6, Gem and Mineral Show sponsored by the Montebello Mineral and Lapidary Society, Gardens Masonic Temple, 6310 East Olympic Blvd., East Los Angeles, Calif.

NOVEMBER 5 & 6, Bear Gulch Rock Club's 15th Annual Gem and Mineral Show, Masonic Hall, 1025 N. Vine Avenue, Ontario, Calif. Exhibits, demonstrations, free parking and admission. Dealer space filled.



#### New Slab Saw

Covington Engineering Corp. expresses great pride in introducing the 16" Slab Saw. The unit is newly designed to provide total flexibility. The all new cabinet design provides full view of the cutting operation without splash or mess. It can be bench mounted or set up on a newly designed optional stand without bolts, screws or clips. No tools are required to change from a bench operation to a full floor stand model in just a few seconds. The time proven Covington Rigid Grip Vise is available as an optional accessory, as is an all new adjustable cut-off switch, power feed and a selection of four different time proven Covington 50-50 diamond blades.

Details of this saw and a complete catalog of lapidary equipment can be obtained from Covington Engineering Corp., (Box 35-D), 715 W. Colton Ave., Redlands, Calif. 92373.

# Desert Shopper

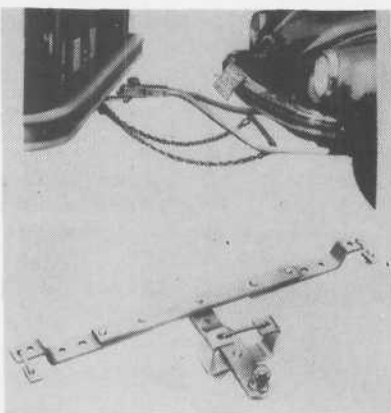
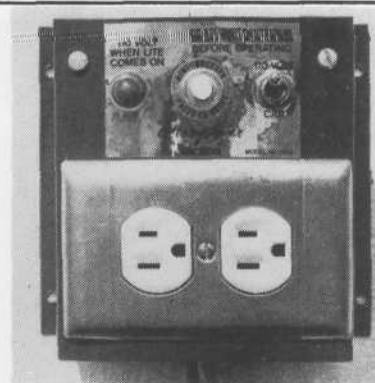
## New and interesting products

Items appearing in this column are not paid advertisements

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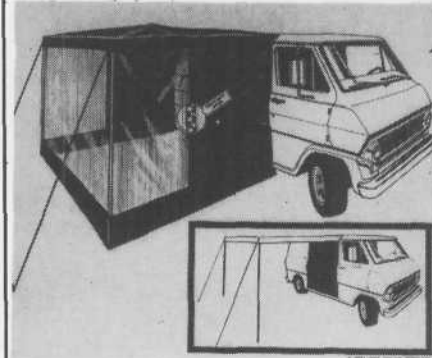
From Valley Tow-Rite, Inc., Dept. D, 1313 S. Stockton St., Lodi, California 95240.



#### "Mini II Pour-Thru" Water Purifier

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For information write: Water Pollution Control Systems, 6350 LBJ Freeway, Suite 122, Dallas, Texas 75240.



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Write to: Vinyl-Fab Industries, 930 E. Drayton, Ferndale, Michigan 48220.



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